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# South and East Asia Report

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20 July 1982

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SIHANOUK ASEAN TOUR PLANNED BY GHAZALI

BK281026 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 28 Jun 82

[Text] Singapore, 28 Jun (AFP)--The sudden change in Cambodian leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk's plans to travel to China appears to have been a Malaysian strategem to keep the limelight on ASEAN and to play down Beijing's role in the evolution of the coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea.

AFP understands from a reliable Cambodian source that the plan, whose architect is Malaysia's astute Foreign Minister Ghazali Shafie, envisages the prince spending at least 3 to 4 weeks in the region before going on to Beijing and perhaps, Pyongyang, by which time the recent events would have lost prime, or even secondary, news value.

Tan Sri Ghazali's initiative, which involved hectic consultations with other Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) capitals, also reflects the irritation that the five-nation grouping had felt for some time over Beijing's reluctance to put real pressure on its protege, the Khmer Rouge, in the formation of the tripartite coalition, the source said.

Prince Sihanouk, who signed the anti-Vietnamese coalition government agreement in Kuala Lumpur with Nationalist leader Son Sann and Khmer Rouge chief Khieu Samphan, was to have flown from Penang to Hong Kong on Friday en route to Beijing and Pyongyang.

But while the prince holidayed on the Malaysian island where he flew in on Wednesday to pay a courtesy call on his old friend, former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman, the Foreign Ministry in Kuala Lumpur had frantic exchanges with its counterparts in Singapore, Jakarta, Manila and Bangkok.

Thus when Friday came, the prince, who was to have left for the airport, was breakfasting with the Tunku.

The same evening, the prince's entourage told newsmen about an invitation the prince had received from Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, but even at that time a full-fledged ASEAN tour was still in the balance.

However, by late that night, it was clear that the tour was on, and that the prince would be received by President Suharto of Indonesia, President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda.

(Reports from Indonesia today said no official confirmation of Prince Sihanouk's visit, which is due to start tomorrow, was available.

(Diplomats said Indonesia, which has always been the most favourable of the ASEAN countries to a dialogue with Vietnam, would play the visit down. Indonesian officials have voiced scepticism about the future of the coalition and do not hide that they would like a political solution to the Cambodian problem.)

CSO: 4220/207

ASEAN TRADE WITH SOVIET UNION INCREASES

Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 25 May 82 p 10

[Article: "ASEAN-Soviet Union Trade Relations: Thailand Occupies the First Place, Reaching \$458 Million"]

[Text] Thailand holds first place among ASEAN member nations in the volume of trade with the Soviet Union at this time.

According to APN [?Trade Research Academy] trade volume amounted to \$458 million in 1981, an increase of 85 percent compared with the previous year. Thai Trade Ministry sources said the volume of trade between the two nations in 1981 was recorded at \$331 million, of which \$326 million were Thai exports to the Soviet Union and \$15 million were imports [as published].

An agreement was signed between the two nations in Bangkok recently setting a trade target for the period January 1982 to June 1983. The Thai government was represented by Prapas Limpraphan, vice minister of trade, while the Soviet mission consisted of six persons headed by Boris Gordeyev, vice minister of foreign trade.

Boris Gordeyev promised to give priority in his country to agricultural imports from Thailand. Under the agreement, Prapas said, Thai commodities expected to be imported by the Soviet Union during this period include 500,000 to 800,000 tons of rice, 100,000 to 200,000 tons of corn, 400,000 to 600,000 tons of tapioca products, and about \$5 million worth of textiles. The Soviet Union is planning to export heavy machinery, chemicals equipment, medicinal products, and printing machinery.

Other ASEAN Trade

According to APN, the total value of trade between the Soviet Union and other ASEAN nations in 1981 amounted to \$1,254 million while in the previous year it was only \$940 million.

Soviet exports to the ASEAN region rose by 69 percent while imports from the region rose 24 percent and totaled \$1,102 million. Soviet purchases of traditional commodities of ASEAN countries assisted to a certain extent in compensating for the losses suffered because of the unstable world market as well as the drop in demand and prices.

The value of U.S. trade with Malaysia in 1981 was \$271 million, narrowing by 8 percent because of the drop in the rubber price on the world market and not because of the drop in the volume of the commodity.

Philippine trade with the United States in 1981 rose by 17 percent and was valued at \$225 million. The rise in Philippine exports came from sugar, palm oil and copra while imports dropped and consisted of metal cutters and railroad ties.

The value of Indonesian trade with the United States last year was recorded at \$133 million; U.S. trade with Singapore was valued at \$167 million. The trade balances favored Indonesia and Singapore.

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CSO: 4213/58

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

FRENCH SHIPS PICK UP ASIAN REFUGEES--Papeete, Tahiti, 30 Jun (AFP)--Two French ships have taken aboard 362 Southeast Asian refugees in the Gulf of Thailand, French military sources said here today. Seventy-one persons have been picked up by the frigate Balny, according to Vice Admiral Jacques Choupin, commander of the French Pacific experimental station in Tahiti where the Balny is based. A total of 291 refugees is now aboard the Goelo, a specially equipped medical ship outfitted by the organization "Medecins du Monde" (Doctors of the World), Admiral Choupin said, adding that both ships are coordinating their efforts. The Balny will arrive in Singapore within a few days, while the Goelo is on its way to the Philippines. The Balny, which left here 13 April for Southeast Asia, has already taken 181 refugees to Singapore picked up in the Gulf of Thailand during an earlier patrol mission lasting from 14 May to 7 June. [Text] [BK010125 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 30 Jun 82]

CSO: 4220/207

SUCCESS, FAILURES OF TRANSMIGRATION PROGRAM DISCUSSED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 28 May 82 pp 1, 12

[Article: "Transmigration Program Has Taken the Proper Direction. PELITA IV Target Is 800,000 Families"]

[Excerpts] The direction in which the transmigration program was implemented in Indonesia has been confirmed as the right one. Proof of this can be found in the graph showing the movement and relocation of transmigrants outside Java, which rose greatly during PELITA III [third 5-year development plan] compared with the previous period.

This was stated by Prof Harun Zain, NAKERTRANS minister [minister of manpower, transmigration and cooperatives], in opening the 1982 work meeting at the NAKERTRANS Department in Jakarta on Thursday [27 May]. The minister said that during PELITA III to the beginning of the present fourth year the number of transmigrants relocated outside Java totaled about 202,000 families, or about 1 million persons, out of a total target of 500,000 families. During the 10 years of PELITA I and II only about 101,000 families were relocated.

Because of proper direction for the transmigration program has been found, he said, the target for transmigration is PELITA IV will be raised again. However no idea was given as to whether the figure for this target would be more than 500,000 families.

Harun Zain only said that in Java, Bali and Lombok with their dense populations, about 13 million farmers have less than a quarter of a hectare of arable land per family or own no land at all. "They must be relocated so that they can obtain much more arable land to improve their standard of living."

One of the participants in the transmigration consultation meeting which was handled by the Department of Public Works and the NAKERTRANS Department in Jakarta on Tuesday [25 May], said as of the end of PELITA III the number of transmigrants will total only 350,000 families or about 75 percent of the overall target of 500,000 families. The reason for this is that the capabilities for land preparation for transmigrants do not match the established target or are poorly handled.

Nevertheless, he said, this consultation meeting concluded that in PELITA IV (1983-88) BAKOPTRANS (Transmigration Implementation Coordination Agency) had a relocation target of 800,000 transmigrant families. This relocation will be directed principally toward the eastern part of the Indonesian region.

A participant in another meeting clarified that poor, large-scale land preparation for the transmigration operation in pursuit of the target proved that it destroys agricultural land beyond the maximum tolerable limit. Therefore the rate of erosion also is increasing. It was estimated that 3.5 million tons of top soil would be eroded in Indonesia in 1981-82.

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CSO: 4213/61

NEW CONSULATES GENERAL OPENED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 19 May 82 p 12

[Article: "Two New Consulates General Opened"]

[Excerpts] Under the current Republic of Indonesia government policy of using any and all means to stimulate non-oil and natural gas exports, it was felt necessary to further develop bilateral relations with the United States and Australia. Hence a consulate general was opened by the government in Houston, United States, and another in Melbourne, Australia. This was announced by Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja in his speech in Pejambon on Tuesday [18 May] afternoon, installing the RI representation chiefs for Houston and Melbourne.

Drs Rachadi Iskandar was appointed the RI consul general for Houston and R.A. Kuntjoro Pranoto the RI consul in Melbourne. By increasing our bilateral relations with these two friendly nations, the foreign minister said, we are protecting Indonesian interests in the trade and capital investment sectors. To open representations in certain nations, for example, does not mean that the consulate involved is limited only to arranging for passports and visas. Such a narrow interpretation of their duties is very misleading because consular affairs are not solely restricted to such activities.

Houston is a center for the petrochemical industry and a center for the energy industry. Businessmen there have many contacts with Indonesia through joint ventures. At least 29 companies having business ties with Indonesia at present are domiciled in Houston.

In addition to being of interest for the factors of trade and capital investment, Australia is considered important for the development of international tourism with Indonesia. Almost 40 percent of all Australian businessmen who invest capital in Indonesia are located in Melbourne.

To date 2,900 Indonesian citizens are recorded as living in Melbourne. Until only recently Indonesians there could obtain little definite information on what was happening in Indonesia, particularly in regard to development.

Information activities cannot be divorced from sociocultural aspects. Therefore the Directorate for Sociocultural Relations and the Directorate for Foreign Information have been combined to form the Directorate General for Sociocultural Relations and Foreign Information. Thus the new directorate is expected to be able to encourage international tourism to Indonesia.

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CSO: 4213/61

FOUR HASAN TIRO MOVEMENT MEMBERS CAPTURED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 23 May 82 pp 1, 8

[Article: "Perlak Governor' Taken Alive Along With Three Cohorts"]

[Excerpts] A leader and three members of the Hasan Tiro Movement (GHT) were seized by a Task Force B unit of KODAM I [First Military District Command] in an ambush on Friday morning, 21 May, at Mata Neuheun, Nurussalam Subdistrict, in East Aceh. The GHT leader was Idris Mahmud who called himself "the Governor of the Perlak Region." He was taken alive along with his cohorts, none of whom offered much resistance.

This was announced by Brig Gen Abdurachman, commander of KODAM I/Iskandarmuda, in Banda Aceh on Saturday [22 May] when he presented the GHT members taken for interrogation so that they could be viewed by newsmen. Idris Mahmud and his followers appeared physically fit and smiled as newsmen photographed them. "Don't take too many photos or the glare of your flashbulbs will blind me," Idris said jokingly.

According to the commander, Idris Mahmud was ambushed at 0545 on Friday, 21 May, in the house of a Matang Neuheun resident, located close to the shore and highway. Information on their location was received from the community by Inf Maj Jahdi Husen, commander of Task Force B, on 19 May. After studying the information and deciding on his area of operation, the task force commander ordered Inf Capt Waino to act as operations officer and move with his 18-member unit toward the targeted area.

All ambush operations were completed toward the first target around Matang Bungong Idi Rayeuk, East Aceh. Idris Mahmud and his companions were said to be hiding in a fisherman's house. Upon investigation, it was found that the GHT members had moved from that position, leaving in a speedboat for Matang Neuheun, Nurussalam Subdistrict.

Capt Waino immediately pursued them cautiously. Without arousing any suspicion whatsoever, the task force approached the hiding place of Idris Mahmud and his companions. Toward dawn, someone came out of the house. It appeared to be Idris Mahmud.

Idris was watched closely by Capt Waino and his men. The task force became suspicious because Idris did not return to the house for a long time. Capt Waino immediately commanded Idris and the others in the house to surrender in good order and warning shots were fired overhead. Idris was caught while trying to resist capture.

Idris's followers were Jailani (27 years old), Said Hasan (24 years old), and Marzuki (26 years old).

Idris Mahmud is the older brother of Zubir Mahmud, the "social affairs minister of Free Aceh," who was shot to death in Seuneuboh, Peurelak Subdistrict, East Aceh, on 25 May 1980. He is a graduate of the Agricultural Academy and recently worked for an East Aceh company.

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CSO: 4213/61

NAKERTRANS MINISTER DISCUSSES UNEMPLOYMENT

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 27 May 82 pp 1, 9

[Article: "202,000 Families Were Relocated in the Past 3, 5 Years. Number Unemployed Hard To Determine in Indonesia"]

[Excerpts] After being received by President Suharto, Harun Zain, manpower, transmigration and cooperatives minister, at the Bina Graha on Wednesday 26 May 1 said unemployment in Indonesia constitutes 3.5 percent of the 59 million labor force. This figure, he said, was obtained from the BPS (Central Statistics Bureau) and ILO (International Labor Organization).

The majority in the labor force, or 25 to 40 percent, are included in the "semiunemployed" category. However it is very difficult to determine the exact number of unemployed in Indonesia because some individuals do not want to report themselves and usually the unemployed are supported by their families.

What is meant by "semi-unemployed," Harun Zain said, are those individuals who work less than 40 hours a week or who work more than 8 hours a day but whose earnings are below the minimum wage. It also includes new graduates who are looking for work. "Most of the 'semi-unemployed' are school children and housewives," Harun Zain said.

According to the 1980 census, a person who works 1 hour a week can be categorized as "working." Persons 10 years of age and over number 104.4 million; 51.8 million of them are in the labor force. The remaining 52.6 million are in school, are housewives or retired persons living on a pension.

Harun Zain said industry and other development can only absorb about 1 million of the labor force per year. The remainder are absorbed into the nonformal sector, for example, they become sidewalk vendors.

In addition the government is implementing a labor intensive program which is directed at seasonal workers. Generally the labor force is supported by the labor intensive program by providing commodities or income while the individuals are not employed in farming.

Harun Zain said he reported to President Suharto his plan to leave for Geneva to attend the annual ILO session beginning on 1 June. The main item to be discussed is job opportunities for the young generation.

"This is very advantageous for us because we can profit from the experience of other nations which will be discussed during this session."

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CSO: 4213/61

JOINT VENTURE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES PERMITTED

Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 10 May 82 pp 1, 3

[Article: "Foreign Life Insurance Companies May Operate in Indonesia as Joint Ventures"]

[Excerpts] The government will authorize foreign life insurance companies to operate in Indonesia as long as they form joint ventures with Indonesian life insurance companies which are lawful limited companies (PT) and not state-owned companies.

This opportunity was offered by the government within the framework of supporting the growth of the life insurance industry in Indonesia which requires greater capital and satisfactory technological management. To date only new foreign casualty insurance companies have begun to operate in Indonesia as joint ventures.

Finance Minister Ali Wardhana, who offered this opportunity in his decision which was announced by the Finance Department on Saturday [8 May] in Jakarta, clarified that the foreign life insurance company's share of paid-in capital at the time the joint venture company is formed is to be 70 percent.

Ten years after the formation of the joint venture, the foreign share must drop to 40 percent and 10 years later must drop again to 30 percent.

These shares must be transferred through sale on the capital market in Indonesia. Purchasers of these shares must be Indonesian citizens or national businesses which are not state-owned businesses.

In his decision the finance minister established that paid-in capital for the joint venture must be at least 4.5 billion rupiah and each year an obligatory additional deposit must be made in one of the state-owned banks amounting to 45 percent of the premium reserves created in the previous year.

The obligatory deposit is set at 20 percent of the paid-in capital of the company at the time the joint venture is established and must be deposited in a special account held in the name of the finance minister.

Only one person from the foreign life insurance company involved may sit in the directorate and in the commissioner's council, respectively, for a term of office to be determined by the director general for domestic monetary affairs.

The foreign official may not hold the position of executive director or financial director or any other position with any title whatsoever which is intended to imply executive director or financial director.

Insurance policies of the joint venture life insurance company must be issued in rupiah terms with a total value of 3 million rupiah or more.

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CSO: 4213/61

KAMPUCHEA

VODK COMMENTARY APPEALS FOR OPPOSITION TO CBW USE

BK050938 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea  
2330 GMT 3 Jun 82

[Station commentary: "The Kampuchean people and democratic Kampuchea would like to appeal to peace and justice-loving countries and the United Nations to unite in opposing the most criminal acts of the Vietnamese and the Soviets in using toxic chemical weapons to kill the Kampuchea, Lao and Afghan peoples"]

[Summary] On 7 June, the UN General Assembly will convene a special meeting to discuss the disarmament issue. "On this occasion, the Kampuchean people and democratic Kampuchea--victims of the unjust and barbarous war of aggression and race extermination being waged by the Hanoi Vietnamese enemies using toxic chemicals with the support and participation of the Soviets during the past more than 3 years--would like to appeal to all peace and justice-loving countries, peoples, personalities and mass organizations throughout the world, as well as the United Nations, to pay special attention to the issue of Vietnamese and Soviet use of toxic chemical and biological weapons to kill the Kampuchean, Lao and Afghan peoples."

"There is concrete evidence to support the fact that the Vietnamese and Soviets use of toxic chemical and biological weapons in Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Laos. Everybody knows that the Vietnamese and the Soviets used toxic chemical weapons in Laos before 1976 to commit genocide against the Hmong race. In Kampuchea, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have used toxic chemical weapons to commit genocide against the Kampuchean people since the beginning of 1979, after their big offensive. In Afghanistan, the Soviets started to use their toxic chemical weapons at the beginning of their war of aggression."

Tens [of] thousands of Kampuchean, Laotians and Afghans have died every year from toxic chemical and biological weapons of the Vietnamese and Soviet expansionists and aggressors." There are many types of toxic chemical weapons used by the Vietnamese and the Soviets in Kampuchea, Laos and Afghanistan. Among them, the one which the world calls yellow rain is the most poisonous and dangerous. It was used particularly by the Vietnamese in Kampuchea and Laos."

There is a lot of evidence of Vietnamese and Soviet use of toxic chemicals in these three countries." Therefore, the present issue that the world must pay

attention to is the stand to condemn the most criminal Vietnamese and Soviets. Effective measures have to be taken to stop the Vietnamese and the Soviets from continuing their use of toxic chemical and biological weapons to exterminate the Kampuchean, Lao and Afghan peoples. Pressure must be brought to bear on them to respect the 1925 Geneva convention and the 1972 treaty, which absolutely prohibit the use of toxic chemical and biological weapons."

The most effective measure for solving this issue is to bring pressure to bear on the Vietnamese and the Soviets to stop their wars of aggression and withdraw all of their troops from Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Laos, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions.

CSO: 4212/26

KAMPUCHEA

IENG SARY RECEIVES PRC CORRESPONDENTS 27 MAY

KB310625 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea  
2330 GMT 20 May 82

[Text] (Yang Mu), chief of bureau of the XINHUA News Agency in Bangkok; (Fang Yinguang), chief of bureau of the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY newspaper in Bangkok; and their colleagues Mrs (Li Yinxiao) and Mrs (Geng Yiaoping) arrived in democratic Kampuchea on 25 May for a visit to the Sisophón south of route 5-bavel zone.

Upon their arrival, the Chinese quests were warmly and cordially welcomed by cadres from the democratic Kampuchean Foreign Ministry.

On 27 May, Ieng Sary, democratic Kampuchean deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, received and granted an interview to the friendly Chinese journalists. Present at this interview together with Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary was (Sok Phiep), division commander attached to the Phnum Malai-mak Hoeun sector.

In the afternoon on the same day, Ni Kan, division political commissar attached to the Bavel-Mongkolborei sector, received at his headquarters the friendly Chinese correspondents and informed them of the defeat of the Vietnamese enemy's dry-season operations in this battlefield.

During their stay in the democratic Kampuchean zone, the friendly Chinese correspondent visited Phum Thmei, Phum Sangke, schools, laboratories, hospitals and shops in various villages and Phum Sralau Chrum, Phum Tuol Chrey and Phum (Peam) which were burned down, looted and destroyed by the Vietnamese aggressors, expansionists, annexationists and race exterminators and later result within a short period of time by our people.

On the evening of 26 May, the Chinese correspondents watched a performance by the Phnum Malai art troupe. The Chinese correspondents also interviewed Female combatants of the transport unit and some people who were busily launching production, digging Punji pitfalls and setting automatic bows for the defense of their localities.

Everywhere they went, the friendly Chinese correspondents saw a great deal of evidence reflecting the spirit of resolute struggle, perseverance and sacrifice displayed by our democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas and our

people in fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors in order to liberate their nation and territory and defend their race. The friendly Chinese correspondents also photographed trenches, a quantity of ammunition and war materiel and the carcass of the Vietnamese tanks smashed by our democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas and deserted in great shame by the Vietnamese aggressor troops in last dry season.

Before their departure from our democratic Kampuchean zone, the friendly Chinese correspondents expressed their admiration and profound respect for the heroism and lofty spirit of sacrifice of our people and our democratic Kampuchean National Army and guerrillas who have fought valiantly and even sacrificed their lives in the resistance against the Vietnamese aggressors in order to liberate their nation and territory and defend their race.

CSO: 4212/26

KAMPUCHEA

VODK REPORTS SPORTS GROUP'S VISIT TO INDONESIA

BK090345 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea  
2330 GMT 8 Jun 82

[Text] Our democratic Kampuchean table tennis delegation led by (Long Narin), general secretary of the Kampuchean Table Tennis Association; and with (Srei Chan Thoeun) as member, attended the 6th Asian table tennis competition in Jakarta--the capital city of Indonesia--from 24 May-3 June 1982.

Our democratic Kampuchean delegation participated in this competition in order to tighten friendly ties between our Kampuchean people and sportsmen and friendly Asian peoples and sportsmen, particularly with the Indonesian people and sportsmen. With this aim, our delegation met and held talks with His Excellency Major General Ali said, minister of justice, action foreign minister and chairman of the Indonesian Table Tennis Association; as well as with other friendly delegations.

On 25 May 1982, our delegation attended the meeting of the council of the Asian Table Tennis Union. On 27 May and 1 June 1982, our delegation participated in the Asian Table Union's assembly. These meetings were convened in a most friendly and understanding atmosphere.

It is noted that the Hanoi Vietnamese clique did not attend the 6th Asian table tennis competition or the meetings. During its stay in Jakarta, our delegation informed various delegations about the situation in Kampuchea where the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy sent their 250,000 troops to wage an aggressive and genocidal war against our race. The friendly delegations understood this situation and sympathized with the just struggle of our Kampuchean people.

On 6 June 1982, this delegation safely returned to the fatherland.

CSO: 4212/26

AGRICULTURAL REPORT 28 JUNE-4 JULY 1982

[Editorial Report] BK041159 Monitored Kampuchean media have reported the following agricultural developments in the reporting period 28 June-4 July:

Kompong Thom: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 1100 GMT on 28 June reports that last April state tractor operators helped peasants in Stoung District to till 2,075 hectares of land while the peasants themselves tilled 442 hectares. Peasants also broadcast rice on 422 hectares of burned-off land and planted 46 hectares of corn. Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1429 GMT on 30 June adds that the veterinary service of Stoung District vaccinated 7,640 cattle, 1,790 buffalo and 50 pigs against contagious diseases. The fishermen of Stoung District supplied the population with 17 tons of fish and produced 22 tons of dried fish and 7 tons of fish paste. At 0435 GMT on 3 July SPK notes that solidarity groups in Baray District have tilled 670 hectares of land since the beginning of the rainy season. They have grown 1,600 hectares of quick-growing and long-term rice and more than 1,000 hectares of rice on burned-off land. Reporting on the same district, Phnom Penh radio at 1230 GMT on 29 June says that by the end of May the peasants sowed 1,609 hectares of floating and late rice and transplanted 630 hectares of ordinary rice. The peasants of Kompong Svay District tilled or broadcast 3,278 hectares of rice, according to Phnom Penh Radio at 1230 GMT on 1 July.

Battambang: According to Phnom Penh Radio at 0400 GMT on 28 June, almost 8,000 tons of fish--1,442 tons above plan--were hauled in the province during the last fishing season. The report notes that 2,000 tons were dried, fermented or smoked. The operators of 103 state-owned tractors helped the peasants to plow over 30,700 hectares of land. By 10 June, the whole province broadcast 17,236 hectares of floating rice, according to the radio at 0400 GMT on 1 July, Battambang Province had 86,700 hectares of land tilled and more than (?46,000) hectares of rice sown by mid-June.

Kampot: Phnom Penh Radio at 1230 GMT on 29 June reports that from the beginning of January to mid-May the salt workers of the province turned out 3,800 tons of salt or 95 percent of the plan. According to SPK at 1428 GMT on 2 July, during the first 10 days of June, peasants of Chhuk District seeded 960 hectares and planted 520 hectares of rice. They also planted 650 hectares of subsidiary crops and harvested 220 hectares of early rice. The district plans to grow 22,750 hectares of rice, or 5,000 hectares more than last year, and to reclaim 700 hectares of land during the current principal planting season. According

to Phnom Penh Radio at 1230 GMT on 3 July, the peasants of Chhuk District tilled 1,075 hectares of land, sowed 964 hectares of rice, planted more than 650 hectares of subsidiary crops and repaired 5,000 meters of dikes.

Prey Veng: The radio reports at 0400 GMT on 29 June that the people of Preah Sdech District plan to grow 28,883 hectares of rice and 305 hectares of subsidiary crops during the rainy season. By early June, more than 125 hectares of rice had been sown, 7,012 hectares of early and ordinary rice transplanted.

Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey: SPK at 1455 GMT on 28 June reports that fishermen of the province caught 8,660 tons of fish during the last fishing season and produced 128,400 liters of fish sauce. In March and April alone, 2,400 tons of fish were hauled. According to the radio at 0400 GMT on 2 July, peasants in Samraong District have so far planted 340 hectares of rice and 87 hectares of subsidiary crops.

Kompong Cham: SPK at 0415 GMT on 30 June reports that the provincial trading service sold to the population more than 208,000 meters of cloth, 43,420 scarves, 84,000 liters of fuel oil and more than 3,300 kg of nails, utensils and farm tools. According to Phnom Penh Radio at 1230 GMT on 30 June, by early June the peasants of O Reang Euv District had sown 160 hectares of rice seed and grown more than 800 hectares of broadcast rice. They planted 836 hectares of corn, 11 hectares of sugarcane and 1,428 hectares of manioc and beans. They plan to grow 13,525 hectares of rice in the rainy season. The agriculture service of the distirct is preparing to provide peasants with 190 tons of 16-20-00 fertilizer, 65 tons of urea, 200 liters of nitrate fertilizer, 300 kg of rat poison, 12 tons of IR-36 seeds, 10 tons of red corn, 65 kg of vegetable seeds and 3 threshers. Phnom Penh Radio at 0400 GMT on 30 June reports that in 1981 peasants in Kang Meas District grew 3,650 hectares of rainy-season rice and reaped 6,570 tons of paddy. They caught 1,000 tons of fish. There are now more than 6,000 pigs, 8,556 cattle and 227 buffalo. Over 4,000 head of cattle and buffalo have been vaccinated.

Kompong Speu: According to SPK at 0415 GMT on 30 June, repair and development work at three dams in Paoy Mea commune, Phnum Sruoch District, is nearing completion. Phnom Penh Domestic Service at 0400 GMT on 30 June notes that by 7 June the peasants of Kompong Speu Province had tilled more than 5,300 hectares of ricefields, sown 4,172 hectares of seeds and transplanted 1,200 hectares of rice. They have grown 863 hectares of cassava, 510 hectares of corn, nearly 600 hectares of potato and about 1,500 hectares of beans and 500 hectares of vetegables. They have raised more than 101,000 cattle, 2,895 buffalo, 36,000 pigs and more than 241,000 chickens.

Takeo: At 0406 GMT on 4 July SPK reports that peasants in Takeo Province have seeded 4,600 hectares of rice and plan to grow 185,000 hectares of rice during this rainy season. They have harvested 32,000 hectares of dry-season rice.

CSO: 4212/26

KAMPUCHEA

BRIEFS

SRV TROOPS HIT LNLF LANDMINES--Here is a combat report from Laos:: On 27 June the Vietnamese enemy troops hit landmines planted by the guerrillas of the Lao National Liberation Front in an area between (Muong Mun) and (Te) hamlets in Sithandone District of Champassak Province. They suffered two killed and five wounded. [Text] [BK030722 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 2 July 82]

PHNOM PENH REPORTS ENEMY SURRENDERS--According to still incomplete statistics, from November 1981 to April 1982, a total of 1,545 enemy remnants and Sereika elements came out of the jungle and surrendered to the revolutionary authorities. In addition, 4,614 anti-revolutionary elements who mingled among the people turned themselves over to the revolutionary authorities. This includes 3,675 enemy troops with 588 assorted weapons who surrendered to the authorities in Siem Reap Province and 171 POL pot and Sereika troops who returned to the fold from the border area. [Excerpts] [BK290905 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 28 Jun 82]

GIFTS TO KPRAF LOGISTICS SCHOOL--A ceremony was held at the KPRAF logistics school at 1430 on 24 June to hand over gifts of the SRV army logistics officers school to the KPRAF logistics school. Attending the ceremony were Comrade Di Phin, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the KPRAF general logistics department; and a number of army cadres. Speaking on that occasion, Comrade (Men Vanmoli), deputy head of the KPRAF logistics school, described the development of the school and stressed: The development of the school is attributable to the material and moral support and assistance given by the Vietnamese comrades who have always been the comrades in arms and good friends of the Kampuchean people. These gifts handed over to the KPRAF logistics school clearly reflect the relations of solidarity and close cooperation between the armies and peoples of the two fraternal countries of Kampuchea and Vietnam and emphasize the pure spirit of Proletarian internationalism of the Vietnamese party, government, army and people. In conclusion, the comrade expressed profound thanks to the Vietnamese party, government and people for supporting the Kampuchean people in their cause of national liberation, defense and construction of their fatherland. The comrade said: Cadres and combatants of the KPRAF pledge to make every effort to strengthen and develop constantly the Kampuchea-Vietnam special bond of militant solidarity in order to ensure the peace and independence of each country and to contribute to the defense of security in this region. [Text] [BK260303 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0400 GMT 25 Jun 82]

MOUNG BATTLEFIELD ATTACK--On 25 June, our army and guerrillas cut 400 meters of Vietnamese railroad tracks in an area located between Kralaom Phluk and Tuol Kruos in Moung Battlefield. They also killed two Vietnamese soldiers and wounded three others. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Moung Battlefield! [Text] [BK050750 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 4 Jul 82]

IENG SARY'S BEIJING ACTIVITIES--The democratic Kampuchean delegation attending the UN special session on disarmament led by deputy Prime Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs Ieng Sary, arrived in Beijing on 20 June, on its way back home. It was warmly greeted at the airport by His Excellency Han Nianlong, adviser to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and other Chinese cadres. Pech Cheang, democratic Kampuchean ambassador to China and the embassy's staff were also at the airport to welcome the delegation. On 21 June, His Excellency Ji Pengfei, member of the Chinese state council, received and hosted a reception for Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary and his delegation. The talk and the reception were held in a friendly and most cordial atmosphere. Also attending the reception were His Excellency Wu Xueqian, vice minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency Han Nianlong, adviser to the Foreign Ministry; democratic Kampuchean Ambassador Pech Cheang; Chinese cadres; and many other Kampuchean. [Text] [BK301329 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 29 Jun 82]

LAO GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES--Here is a report on activities of the Lao National Liberation Front guerrillas: On 25 June, Lao National Liberation Front guerrillas attacked a Vietnamese enemy position at (Banteay Khlem), killing two Vietnamese soldiers and wounded three others. [Text] [BK010900 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 30 Jun 82]

VODK REPORTS ATTACK ON RAILROAD--On 22 June, our army and guerrillas cut 13 sections of the Vietnamese enemy's railway track for a total of 350 meters between Kev S'at and Thnal Bat, Moung Battlefield. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Moung Battlefield! [Text] [BK010857 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 30 Jun 82]

LNLF GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES--Here is a combat report from Laos: On 10 June, Vietnamese troops hit landmines planted by the guerrillas of the Lao National Liberation Front [LNLF] south of (Khlem) Hamlet, suffering two killed and three wounded. On 20 June, the LNLF guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese troops east of (Khlem) Hamlet, killing three enemy troops and wounding four others. In sum, the LNLF guerrillas killed or wounded 12 Vietnamese troops. [Text] [BK270311 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 26 Jun 82]

SOVIETS KILLED IN AMBUSH--On 16 June our army and guerrillas ambushed two Vietnamese trucks west of Kompong Seila, killing 23 enemy troops, including 20 Soviets, and wounding 4 others. We also destroyed the trucks and a quantity of materiel. On 17 June our army and guerrillas ambushed another Vietnamese truck west of Samraong Bridge on Rouge 4, destroying the truck, killing four

Vietnamese troops, wounding five others and destroying three AK's and all the materiel on the truck. In sum, we destroyed 3 Vietnamese trucks and killed or wounded 36 enemy troops, including 20 Soviets. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Kompong Som Battlefield! [Text] [BK270124 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 26 Jun 82]

CANADA'S 'YELLOW RAIN' REPORT--In a press conference held in Bangkok on 20 June, visiting Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan said that Canadian scientists have found evidence of the use of toxic chemical weapons by the Vietnamese in Kampuchea and Laos. The discovery was made by a team of Canadian scientists led by Bruno Schiefer, head of the toxic chemicals department of the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, who visited areas along the Thai-Kampuchean and Thai-Lao borders last February. The Canadian team made its investigation in refugee camps, interviewed Kampuchean and Lao victims and also analysed soil and plant samples taken from Kampuchea and Laos. Secretary of State for External Affairs MacGuigan said that the Canadian Government would forward the report on the use of toxic chemical weapons in Kampuchea and Laos to the United Nations secretary general this week. [Text] [BK241200 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 23 Jun 82]

TRACKS CUT ON MOUNG BATTLEFIELD--On 16 June, our army and guerrillas cut 40 sections of the Vietnamese enemy's railway track between Svay Chek station and Phnum Thippadei, Moung Battlefield, for a total of 2,000 meters. When we were cutting this track, Vietnamese soldiers who came to inspect the track were attacked by us and two of them were killed and another wounded. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Moung Battlefield! [Text] [BK290336 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 28 Jun 82]

TRAIN AMBUSHED IN KAMPOT PROVINCE--On 8 June army and guerrillas ambushed a Vietnamese train at Chrak Siem, Angkor Chey District, Kampot Province. We burned a locomotive, killed five Vietnamese troops on the train and wounded seven others. We also destroyed a 12.7-mm machinegun, two AK's and a quantity of materiel. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people in Angkor Chey District of Kampot Province! [Text] [BK260415 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 25 Jun 82]

THAI OFFICIALS' REACTION TO COALITION--Addressing a press conference at Government House 23 June, Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon said he was happy that Kampuchea's anti-Vietnam patriotic forces have joined together. He added: This coalition will result in more votes for democratic Kampuchea in the forthcoming UN General Assembly in September and will strengthen democratic Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations. More countries will pay attention and respond more actively to the international conference on Kampuchea initiated by the ASEAN countries. Concerning resistance against the Vietnamese aggressors on the battlefield, Prime Minister Prem said: This coalition will strengthen the Kampuchean resistance forces and increase their combat strength in realizing the Kampuchean people's desires. He added that the stronger the Kampuchean

resisting forces become, the easier Thailand can safeguard its stability and security. Concerning the coming visit to Thailand by Nguyen Co Thach, Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon said: Thailand still adheres to the resolutions of the UN General Assembly nad the international conference on Kampuchea. Our attitude remains unchanged. At the same time, the Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The Thai Governement welcomes the formation of the democratic Kampuchean coalition government. He stressed: This coalition conforms to the will of the Kampuchean patriots who want peace to be restored in their country and who want the whole region to enjoy peace and stability. [Text] [BK260357 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 25 Jun 82]

COALITION FORMATION WELCOMED--The governments of various freendly countries near and far throughout the world have extended their warm welcome to the declaration on the formation of the coalition government of democratic Kampuchea signed on 22 June by the three Kampuchean groups. The Chinese government: In his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary in Beijing on 24 June, Deng Xiaoping, vice chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, said that Tripartite Kampuchean leaders' signing of the declaration on the formation of the coalition government of democratic Kampuchea was a victory for the Kampuchean patriotic forces which have united with one another to oppose the Vietnamese aggressors. The Japanese Government: A spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Ministry stated that the Japanese Government welcomed the declaration on the formation of the coalition government of democratic Kampuchea issued by the three Kampuchean groups fighting against the Vietnamese aggressors. He stressed: Japan will support democratic Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations, continue to provide aid through international organizatons and will consider providing aid directly to the coalition government. The U.S. Government: A spokesman of the U.S. State Department stated on 22 June that the United States welcomed the declaration in the formation of the coalition government of democratic Kampuchea. The United States regarded this coalition as a significant development. [Text] [BK270424 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 26 Jun 82]

CSO: 4212/26

LAOS

BRIEFS

SOUPHANOUVONG RECEIVES AMBASSADOR TO USSR--Vientiane, 18 Jun (KPL)--Lao President Souphanouvong on 17 June met Khamta Duangthongla before assuming his ambassadorial post in the Soviet Union. Khamta Duangthongla is also accredited to Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Poland. On this occasion, President Souphanouvong gave some practical advice to the new ambassador, emphasizing on diplomatic activities in the enhancement of relations between Laos and the foreign countries. [Text] [BK181009 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 18 Jun 82]

CSO: 4220/207

NEPAL

BRIEFS

ENVOY TO PRC--Katmandu, 20 Jun (AFP)--Nepalese King Birendra has appointed General Guna Shamsher Rana, royal Nepalese ambassador to the People's Republic of China following the completion of Professor Y.N. Khanal's term. Born in November 1921, General Rana had served as royal Nepalese Army chief of staff for a term of 4 years. The general is a graduate of the Indian Staff College. [Text] [BK251209 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 20 Jun 82]

CSO: 4220/204

PAKISTAN

WALI KHAN'S 'FOREIGN' CONNECTION ALLEGED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 12 Jun 82 p 3

[Article by Sayyid Shakil Ahmad: "Peshawar Diary"]

Speaking at a formal dinner party at the Press Club a few days ago, the Governor of the Frontier, Lieutenant General Fazl Haq, said that those people who until a short while ago were saying that Bhutto and Pakistan cannot go together have now joined the Bhutto party and its partisans. The governor said emphatically that there ought to be some principles in politics. The governor is very busy, otherwise he would have remembered that the gentleman who used to say that Bhutto and Pakistan could not go together filled the ears of the military rulers after their release from jail in Hyderabad, saying not by hints and allusions, but openly from the platform of the people in public gatherings that "we did what we could for this country according to our abilities. Now only the military can save the country. Since the snake is beneath the boot of the military, if the military moves its foot the snake will strike at the military before anything else. Our turn will come later." Along with this they gave the advice that the military should not stop until it has crushed the snake. In this action lies the refuge of the military and of Pakistan. It doesn't stop there; now we want to show another aspect of Wali Khan. He has also used to ask "Why are the people who talk of Vietnam and Chicago [sic] and salute those who risked their lives there ashamed to salute those of their own country who risk their lives? Were the sacrifices which the people of the Punjab made against dictatorship any less than those of Vietnam? I say they were a great deal more."

No one is surprised by what Wali Khan is saying today, because it has always been Wali Khan's rule to change what he says according to circumstances. Whenever some difficult time comes he uses the excuse of treatment for his eyes to suddenly depart for London, and leaves his friends to undergo political trials and tribulations alone. When Wali Khan recently asked the government for permission to go to Kabul, saying he wanted to visit his old and feeble father, there must have arisen the fear in the hearts of his companions that Wali Khan wanted to leave them alone again. In fact there were even conjectures that he might follow the lead of his respected father and his father's old accomplice Ajmal Khatak and not return to Pakistan. But then came the news that Wali Khan was returning to Pakistan and was

bringing the good tidings that his father, the Red Shirt leader Abdul Ghaffar Khan, was also coming to Pakistan. The followers of the Red Shirt leader crossed the Frontier border to welcome him.

The Frontier Gandhi, who is also called Bacha Khan, showed no concern for those who had come so far to greet him on this occasion, and did not even get out of the car, which was an action completely contrary to Pakhtun tradition. The interpretation given for his not getting out of the car was that he was not entirely well as a result of a broken hip bone. But after a few days stay in Charsadda, and after a particular incident in the interval from 3 May to 9 May, he traveled over difficult and arduous roads with his son. People were amazed that a few days before his health did not allow him to get out of the car, and now how could he be traveling for miles and giving speeches for hours?

Why did Bacha Khan suddenly remind Pakhtuns that the war in Afghanistan is a war of America and the Soviet Union, and that the typhoon which is coming this way is a danger to all Pakhtuns? Bacha Khan has remembered this after this long interval of three years and is ringing the warning bell of danger everywhere, although in fact he is not warning people of any danger but rather is spreading fear and anxiety among the Pakhtuns by talking about a typhoon. What he is today trying to prove to be the Soviet Union's and America's war has been going on for three years, unless Wali Khan has been just playing with words when he talked about the Afghan freedom fighters. All of these matters have one direction and one central point, and there is one date for the change of tone too, that is, the period from 3 May to 9 May.

An important event took place during this period which made his tone change completely. Perhaps people don't know about these dates. At any rate, what happened between 3 May and 9 May was this. A woman arrived in Peshawar at a hotel. At the counter she gave her name as Mrs. M. J. Singh, and she stayed there for one night. In the morning she went to the home of Wali Khan's brother-in-law, Yahya Khan. Later she came back to the hotel, not alone, but with another woman. The other woman was Mrs. Naseem Wali, the daughter-in-law of the Red Shirt leader, and the wife of Wali Khan. She packed up Mrs. M. J. Singh's luggage, seated her in the car, and took her back to Yahya Khan's home. After she stayed there one night, Mrs. Naseem Wali took Mrs. M. J. Singh to Charsadda, where Mrs. M. J. Singh met with her uncle, the Frontier Gandhi, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, and after that met with the other members of the family. The next day Mrs. M. Jaswant Singh went with Wali Khan to his paternal home in Madyan (Swat). Mrs. Wali Isfandyar and one other lady were also with them on this occasion. Mrs. Jaswant Singh stayed in Swat for three days with Wali Khan and Mrs. Wali Khan. On 9 May she went back. After Mrs. Jaswant Singh's meeting with her uncle Ghaffar Khan in Charsadda perhaps there is no need to say who she is, but for the sake of clarity we will explain that Mrs. Jaswant Singh's real name is Miriam, and she is the daughter of the Red Shirt leader Ghaffar Khan's elder brother, the former Chief Minister of West Pakistan, Dr Khan. Her husband is Jaswant Singh, about whose religion there is a difference of opinion even in his wife's family as to whether he is a Sikh

or a Christian. Some people say he was previously a Sikh and later changed his religion to Christianity. At any rate, whatever Mr. Jaswant Singh's religion may be, that is of no concern to us. What does puzzle us though is why, despite her many ties of kinship, Miriam Jaswant Singh stayed one night in a hotel. This makes it clear that her arrival was sudden, and obviously, it was not without a purpose. The greater part of her stay was with Wali Khan and Mrs. Wali Khan. And it was after this that every word which came out of the mouth of Abdul Wali Khan was in praise of Babrak Karmal and in complete harmony with the Soviet Union, and was calling India the champion of democracy. It seems that whatever message was brought by Miriam Jaswant Singh, it was an encouraging one. The Kabul pilgrimage had already changed his mind, and now he was given fresh encouragement.

9914  
CSO: 4203/145

CLOSED-DOOR POLITICAL DIALOGUE CRITICIZED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 20 May 82 p 3

Editorial: "The Evils of Closed-Door Discussion"

Text The minister of labor and manpower, Ghulam Dastagir Khan, stated that the responsibility for elections not being held in the country rests on the politicians who talk publicly about elections, but sing a different tune to President Zia behind closed doors. If politicians followed the right course, elections could be held within months instead of years.

It is not possible for us to testify to the truth of the minister's statement or to prove it wrong. Basically, his statement is an unproved accusation. If a politician were to claim that the president tells the politicians one thing privately, and then says something quite different in press conferences and television talks, the politician's statement would be as much an accusation without proof as Ghulam Dastagir Khan's. The view is current among politicians that the president is unwilling to gather all the politicians together and talk to them as a group. He meets with them individually, and says something different to each one.

The question is, what purpose is being served by this exchange of recriminations between the politicians and Ghluam Dastagir Khan? Is it bringing any closer the goal, collective agreement or compromise? Everyone knows that these accusations only create dissension, suspicion and distrust among the people. This is the kind of situation that arose during Yahya Khan's term of office. He used to meet with politicians individually, and then he and the politicians would trade accusations. Distrust and suspicion reached a stage where no fruitful dialogue was any longer possible; neither side was ready to trust the other. President Zia would be well advised not to allow a simular situation to arise.

It is our considered opinion that corruption infiltrates national policy when the people are ignored, and the government and a few elders of the political arena start closed-door discussions. The nation is never given any direct report of the topics discussed, and only hears bits and pieces of the secret talks during the exchange of accusations. We request that the president realize the hidden consequences of this dangerous situation; and instead of creating an atmosphere of confrontation with the politicians, he should trust

in their patriotism and take them into his confidence. He should convene a roundtable conference similar to Ayub Khan's last venture. He should summon all politicians and noteworthy parties for a discussion on the national situation, come to an understanding with them regarding elections and chart a correct political course for the nation. This is not the time for increasing dissension, airing tensions and creating an atmosphere of confrontation. Instead, now is the time for solving difficulties with wisdom.

9863  
CSO: 4203/131

MORE OPENNESS SUGGESTED ON NEWSPAPER STATISTICS

Karachi JANG in Urdu 15 May 82 p 3

Editorial: "The Problem of Newspaper Circulation"

Text According to a report, the Indian government has instructed all newspapers to publish their daily circulation figures. Although this measure was taken because of the shortage of newsprint, it has the added advantage of allowing the people and the government to know the daily circulation figures of newspapers, and to deter the newspapers from making exaggerated claims. A few days ago in Pakistan, during the question hour in the Council, the federal minister of information was asked regarding the daily circulation figures for various newspapers. He declined to answer, saying that the information was confidential, and that there was an agreement between the ministry of information and the All Pakistan Newspapers Society to keep information regarding the daily circulation of newspapers confidential.

We do not consider information regarding newspaper circulation figures a confidential matter; and as far as we know there is no agreement that prevents the government from divulging this information. If newspapers can publish information of all kinds, then the readers and the public should also have the right to know certain facts about the newspapers themselves. The government has established an audit bureau of circulation just for this purpose; it reviews the circulation figures for each newspaper and issues a certificate specifying the number of newspapers sold daily. Based on this certificate, the government determines the rates of government advertisements published in each newspaper. Irrespective of the exaggerated claims of daily circulation published on the front pages of newspapers, the audit bureau of circulation (which is under the jurisdiction of the federal Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) knows the correct daily circulation of each newspaper. Hence, the government should have no difficulty in informing the people of the daily circulation of each newspaper, if it should decide to do so. All the government has to do is to order every newspaper to publish the correct number of copies it sells daily. Such a step would, on the one hand, ensure a healthy competition among the newspapers, and on the other hand, keep the public informed of the true standing of each newspaper.

9863

CSO: 4203/131

DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION OUTLINED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 15 May 82 p 3

Article by Irshad Ahmad Haqqani: "The Financial Needs of Universities and Their Educational Environment"

Text A report states that the University Grants Commission has prepared a comprehensive report on the financial needs of the country's universities and the difficulties they are encountering, and will soon submit it to the president. The reason for preparing such a report was that these institutions of higher education are finding it difficult to continue their educational and development activities because of the lack of sufficient funds, which is also affecting their educational standards and general efficiency. The report is intended to draw the president's attention to the situation and to seek his aid in solving the difficulties being encountered by the country's 18 or so institutions of higher learning.

The educational sector of our beloved country is beset with various ills. The primary, secondary, higher secondary, undergraduate and graduate institutions have their own special problems; some of these problems are common to all of them and all need attention. But the institutions of higher education should receive the most attention because it is here that the majority of students complete the final stages of their education and enter practical life. The fact is that the standard of performance of any nation depends on the standard of efficiency of its universities which determine the nation's existing condition and the brightness or darkness of its future.

The intellectual leadership of a nation as well as its leaders in all walks of life receive their training in universities. Any nation that is wise and farsighted will not ignore the needs of its universities, and if it does, then such a nation is neither farsighted nor responsible. All the dynamic countries of the world have lavished their utmost care on their universities. Anyone visiting the institutions of higher education of a strong and free country realize at once the secret of its power and success.

In Pakistan, a certain amount of money is allotted to the educational sector which the government perhaps regards as all that the country's finances can bear. But judged on the basis of percentages, education's share of the national resources seems very inadequate. UN experts recommend that 4 percent

of the gross national product should be allocated to education, whereas we are spending only 1.8 percent or less than half the recommended amount. It is even more unfortunate that the funds that are allocated for education are not properly utilized owing to the awkward handling of priorities and the non-educational atmosphere of education institutions. Who can deny that conditions in our institutions of higher learning are not conducive to education, study and research? One reason for this is that we have not succeeded in establishing a nationwide tradition of support for education, nor do we have that high regard or love for learning necessary for basic research. Moreover, we do not tolerate even the basic demands of free thought and speculation. We like to place restriction on thought, and do not favor allowing differences of opinion. We are quick at issuing religious pronouncements and attaching labels. Such attitudes are inimical to the tradition of learning.

A university, by its very nature, is a place where free speculation and differences of opinion are allowed. What are the conditions here? Closed minds, narrow hearts, limited vision and lack of imagination. Under such conditions, how can the light of knowledge be kept burning and research and investigation confer benefits?

To top it all, political intrigues are taking their toll. Universities are major centres of political activity. Where peace and security should reign paramount, there are scenes of vandalism, violence, threats, force and collusion. Can the delicate plant of knowledge be nurtured in such surroundings? The writer can say with certainty that the extent of political activity that goes on in most Pakistani universities is unequalled in the universities of any other country in the world. Try to think of all the regions and countries of the world and compare them with Pakistan in this respect, and you will reach the same conclusion. There may be several reasons for this state of affairs, the most important of which is that since there is no political activity allowed in Pakistan, educational institutions have become the centres of political rivalries. Political elements are expending all their energies in that arena, trying to find fulfillment there for their political desires. The first and foremost result of this is the destruction of the environment necessary for serious study and research.

Added to all these are financial problems which plague all the universities. In the last few years, some of them have on occasion lacked money even for everyday expenses. Punjab university, which is the country's oldest, was considering until recently the feasibility of allowing commercial centres on its campus in order to raise money for its needs. Last year, Karachi university lacked funds to pay the salaries of its staff. This year, the government approved 320 million rupees for development projects in nineteen universities; but one by one, these institutions have been told that they would receive only 210 million rupees. Obviously, the projects and programs of these universities will be adversely affected. The whole nation should give a moment's thought to this problem: national problems will be solved in their own good time, but emergency measures are needed to improve the conditions of the universities. A few more years of procrastination will not only prove disastrous for education, but will harm all other sectors of national life as well.

Conditions are already bad. It is necessary to restore freedom of thought and intellect to the universities; to put an end to political intrigues there; to increase financial support for them in order to enable these institutions of higher education to truly dispense knowledge to the new generation and provide vigorous and healthy new blood to the nation without which a nation's existence is endangered.

9863  
CSO: 4203/131

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

HAQ CONSULTS WITH CHATTI--President Mohammad Ziaul Haq is keeping himself abreast of the latest situation in Lebanon and international efforts to prevent further bloodshed and destruction by Israelis in Lebanon. This was stated by an informed source in Islamabad today. The president spoke by telephone with Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, yesterday and exchanged views on the possibility of convening an extraordinary session of the Islamic foreign ministers soon to examine the grave situation created by the Israeli criminal aggression against Lebanon. Habib Chatti apprised the president that he was in continuous touch with the member countries. He said Pakistan was the first member which apprised him of its support for such a meeting. As reported earlier, Foreign Minister Sihabzada Yaqub Khan had already supported PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's proposal on convening an extraordinary session. [Text] [BK061615 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jul 82]

HAQ GREETES REAGAN--President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has felicitated President Reagan on the independence day of the United States of America today. In a message he said both Pakistan and the United States were animated by desire to promote regional and international peace based on justice and to secure a better life not only for their own people but for humanity at large. These objectives constituted a firm basis for lasting friendship between the two countries. The president expressed confidence that the existing mutually beneficial relations between two countries would be strengthened and consolidated further with the passage of time. [Text] [BK040710 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Jul 82]

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT DEPARTS--The vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea left for Pyongyang this morning after a night-long stay in Karachi. [Text] [BK070950 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 7 Jul 82]

PIR PAGAR TOURS NWFP--Pir Pagara, the leader of the defunct Muslim League, said that Pakistan was established for the sake of democracy and every party, particularly the Muslim League, has a complete right to struggle for national unanimity and the restoration of democratic action in the country. Pir Pagara is currently on a four day organizational trip in the Frontier Province. He met with party officials and workers the past day in Nowshera, Swabi, Buner, Mardan and Pir Baba. According to party sources, during his short stay in these places Pir Pagara advised his party workers to base their organization on solid and energetic lines so that it might play an important role in future affairs of the country. The provincial leadership of the party, the party's Central General Secretary S. M. Zafar, Mirza Asim Beg, Sardar Muskin, Yusuf Balock and Azad Bin Hyder also accompanied Pir Pagara. Mr S. M. Zafar also paid glowing tribute to Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan's political policy and endeavors in his speeches on this occasion. He said that the Frontier is the fortress of Pakistan, and the Muslim League also bears a similar status in this area for having a feeling of action and power. [Text] [Karachi JANG in Urdu 21 Jun 82 p 1] 9914

CSO: 4203/145

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

BILL TO EXTRADITE HIJACKER--Colombo, 6 Jul (AFP)--The Sri Lankan cabinet today approved legislation to extradite the man who hijacked an Alitalia jetliner last week to Italy. The decision was taken at a special cabinet session here today amid a growing outcry that hijacker Sepala Ekanayake should be punished for the 32-hour hijack drama at Bangkok Airport where he reportedly used bogus explosives to hold 261 passengers and crew hostage in exchange for a ransom of \$300,000 and a demand that he be reunited with his estranged Italian wife and young son. Because the legislation still has to be approved by Parliament this week, an exact date for Ekanayake's extradition has not been finalised. The legislation will give effect to the three anti-hijacking conventions of the Hague, Tokyo and Montreal.  
[Excerpt] [BK061133 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 6 Jul 82]

CSO: 4220/204

THAILAND

KHMER ROUGE TO PERMIT ALLIC TO VISIT AREA

BK050334 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 5 Jun 82 p 6

[Text] The Khmer Rouge will allow with apparent jubilation members of the Asian Lawyers Legal Inquiry Committee (ALLIC) to visit an area under its occupation in Kampuchea to collect first-hand evidence about the alleged use of chemical weapons in the war torn country.

The 1-day trip to Phum Thmei in Phnum Malai areas which has been tentatively scheduled for 6 July will be part of the committee's investigation into the charges of human rights violations in Kampuchea and Laos.

In a letter dated 28 May, Khmer Rouge Social Affairs Minister Ieng Thirith quoted its leader Khieu Samphan as telling the committee of his full support for its works.

She also said that the ALLIC delegates would be warmly welcomed during their visit and their security would be fully guaranteed.

The delegation would be provided with facilities including lunch and dinner, during their trip there, according to the letter which also said that the Khmer Rouge's folk dance troupe will be ready to entertain the committee members.

Copies of the letter were distributed to reporters during a ceremony to open the investigation at the new Imperial Hotel last evening. The ceremony was attended by several top personalities including former Thai Ambassador to Kampuchea Pol Maj Gen Chana Samutthawanit, former Prime Minister M.R. Seni Pramot, and Democrat Party leader Phichai Rattakun.

Members of the Inquiry Committee will also visit two refugee camps on the eastern and northeastern border during their work which will be pursued from today until 11 June.

The inquiry team will later compile a report on its findings for distribution to interested parties and government bodies worldwide.

CSO: 4220/206

THAILAND

TREATMENT OF EX-CPTs, OTHER DISSIDENTS REPORTED

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 21 Mar 82 pp 18-22

[Article: "A Summary of the Human Rights Situation In Thailand In 1981"]

[Excerpt] As for in Thailand, the "Religious Activities Coordination Group for Society," a human rights protection group, has regularly prepared an annual summary of the human rights situation in Thailand. They have provided data and reported the situation in detail according to the data gathered. The following is the report of the "Religious Activities Coordination Group for Society" which summarizes the human rights situation in Thailand for the year 1981.

The Religious Activities Coordination Group for Society has reported that the human rights situation in Thailand in 1981 was not very different from that in 1980. While the government has given the people greater freedom of speech and written expression and the farmers have just been given the right to strike for their rights, the government is still preserving some limitations just as before. For example, martial law is still in effect, some types of cases are still tried in military courts and press control laws are still in use. Besides this, the human rights of some people are still being violated. People are being oppressed and even murdered by such elements of the state apparatus as the thahan phran irregulars and the police, for example.

1. In 1981, some laws that curtailed the rights and freedoms of the people were still in effect. Such laws include National Administrative Reform Committee orders 1, 8, 29 and 30, which give the military courts the power to try certain types of cases such as cases involving national security, communists and so on. Defendants who are tried in military courts do not have the right of appeal. The Communist Activities Suppression Act permits the detention of people who have been accused of engaging in communist activities for up to 120 days with the permission of the director-general of the Police Department and up to 480 days with the permission of the criminal or military courts.

Last year, many people were arrested and detained in cases involving communist activities. The actual number of people was not disclosed, but based on the reports that appeared in the press, such people included Mrs Wimon Phienthamdi, age 51, Mr Chanchai Chansaichonnathi, Mr Damri Roengsutham and Mr Surachai Saedan. These people have been imprisoned at the temporary prison at the Bang Khen Police Academy.

Since the end of 1980, more and more people who joined the Communist Party of Thailand have surrendered to government officials. Based on government disclosures, it has been learned that the number [who have surrendered] is more than 4,000. Included in this number are political leaders, students and labor leaders who went into the jungle and joined the CPT after the events of 6 October 1976. Such people include Chamni Sakset, Wisa Khanthap and Mahachat Khongsuk, for example. The government's policy is not to punish those who joined the CPT and then surrendered to government officials. But these people must undergo training at various training centers. One is called the Karuntathep Center. They must spend a certain amount of time at these centers before they are released. The actual number of such training centers and the number of people who have been sent for training in each period have not been disclosed.

In 1981, there were reports that some people who had once joined the CPT and later surrendered or people who were suspected of having joined or being in the united front of the CPT were either openly or quietly assassinated or they were arrested and then mysteriously disappeared. As for this quiet method of assassination, government officials who have received awards for their communist terrorist suppression activities have confirmed that this method is used for people who have joined or who are suspected of having joined the CPT. The following are examples of such cases:

At the beginning of 1981, three construction laborers, Mr Lek Antamoh, age 40, Mr Arun Chiuhanan, age 44, and Mr Wichien Chaowaphong, age 45, who had once joined the CPT in the Nakhon Sithammarat area and who had later surrendered were shot and killed by seven gunmen in the public park in Muang District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province.

On 24 December 1980, Mr Phongsak Thiraphatphaibun and Mr Kamon Phienthamdi, the son and nephew of Mrs Wimon Phienthamdi, who was arrested on communist charges, disappeared. Their relatives did not receive any further news about them.

In June 1981, the relatives of Miss Darani Panyabutkun, age 24, a graduate of the Faculty of Law at Ramkhamhaeng University, told the Lawyers' Association of Thailand that Miss Darani had disappeared from home without any news. Later on, there were reports that she had been released after having been detained by police officials for a period.

In July 1981, Mr Silaphasoet Phothikaeo, age 30, the former secretary-general of the Student Center of Thailand who had joined the CPT after 6 October 1976 and

who had later returned and continued his studies at Sinakharinwirot University, Prasanmit, disappeared. His family believes that he has been imprisoned by officials.

2. Since the establishment of an armed unit in order to operate as a guerrilla unit in opposing the activities of the communists, a unit that is called the Thahan Phran Irregular Volunteers, or thahan phran irregulars for short, the thahan phran irregulars have been subordinate to the army and they have been used to oppose just the communists. In 1982, the military issued a statement concerning the achievements of the thahan phran irregulars in suppressing the communists. It also announced that the policy is to increase the size [of this force] from the 24 battalions in 1981 to 32 battalions in 1982. Because the Communist Activities Suppression Act has given the thahan phran irregulars broad powers in assassinating people suspected of being communists without first having to make an investigation and because an autopsy does not have to be made because of loopholes in the establishment of the thahan phran irregulars, the thahan phran irregulars can use their power to cause trouble for innocent people. They have robbed, killed and raped people and used force to exploit the people. During the 3 years since 1979, the thahan phran irregulars have been involved in many cases. The existing evidence shows that they have been involved in at least 126 cases throughout the country. Of this number, 84 cases involved the murder of 132 innocent people, including children, women, village headmen and even policemen. In 1981, the things that the thahan phran irregulars did that caused trouble for the people can be summarized as follows:

On 13 February 1981, Mr Kawem Phinyo, age 35, a native of Surat Thani Province who moved to Krabi Province to grow coffee, was shot and killed by thahan phran irregulars. The thahan phran irregulars suspected that Mr Kasem was helping the communists since his house was in an infiltrated area.

On 11 April 1981, three thahan phran irregulars led by Mr Suchat, surname unknown, shot Mr Bunruan Siriin with 11-millimeter weapons at his house in Village 3 in Chawang Commune, Nakhon Sithammarat. After that, the relatives of the dead man went to appeal to the police but thahan phran irregulars threatened them to get them to abandon the matter.

On 28 April 1981, thahan phran irregulars robbed the house of Mr I and Mr Roman Sutthikan at 54 Village 3 in Nakhien Commune, Nakhon Sithammarat. They ransacked the house for valuables and killed Mr I.

On 28 April 1981, five thahan phran irregulars from Operations Base 4151 in Phruphi Commune, Surat Thani Province, and two policemen from the provincial police station in Wiangsa District joined together to rob a southern-line train that was about to arrive at the Ban Song railroad station in Surat Thani. They killed the policeman on the train and two passengers.

On 2 May 1981, for some unknown reason, thahan phran irregulars from Ban Nai Mun killed Mr Phan Chaikhongsi near Wat Samoson in Thasala District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province.

On 7 May 1981, Mr Chum Khongthong, the assistant village headman and the commune doctor in Thawa and Karo communes, Thasala District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province, was robbed by thahan phran irregulars. The money that he had received in accord with the rural area job development program was stolen and Mr Chuam was shot and killed.

On 10 May 1981, thahan phran irregulars shot and killed Mr Win Ratchani, a member of the Volunteer Defense Corp and a rubber grower who lived in Ban Suan Mak in Thonhong commune, Phromkhiri District, Nakhon Sithammarat province, while he was eating at his house. He was suspected of supporting the communist terrorists.

On 23 May 1981, Mr Noi Khruthamat, age 32, the village headman of Village 7 in Tha Ngu Commune, Muang District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province, was shot and killed by a thahan phran irregular named Nan, surname unknown, because Mr Noi had complained to the provincial governor that thahan phran irregulars were firing their M16s into the village and frightening the villagers.

On 31 June 1981, thahan phran irregulars shot and killed Mr Phin Sapphasanchon at Ban Suan Mak in Thonhong commune, Phromkhiri District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province.

At the beginning of June 1981, Mr Niwat Khongthongkham, a teacher at the Wat Bansara School in Chawang District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province, was shot and killed by thahan phran irregulars in front of students at the school.

On 18 August 1981, during a funeral at Village 4 in Kamphaengsai Commune, Nakhong Sithammarat Province, a funeral that was attended by approximately 200 people, nine thahan phran irregulars armed with M16s entered the area where the funeral was in progress. At first, the villagers did not suspect anything and were not afraid. But then someone whistled and these irregulars opened fire on the villagers at the funeral. Eleven were killed and 16 wounded. This took place because the irregulars had received information that communist terrorists were going to take part in the ceremony.

On 28 October 1981, a group of thahan phran irregulars seized the Pong Nam Ron provincial police station and freed a thahan phran irregular who had been jailed on charges of carrying a weapon in public. This group of irregulars also fired warning shots to keep the police from following them. They commandeered a paramilitary vehicle and fled from the Nawikyothin Camp to their operations base. The soldier responsible for the military vehicle was shot and wounded by the irregulars.

Few of the thahan phran irregulars responsible for these illegal actions have been captured or punished in accord with the law. However, at the end of 1981, the officials directly responsible for the thahan phran irregulars announced that the irregulars would be talked to and checked to prevent them from causing trouble for the people and that those guilty of illegal actions would be resolutey punished.

3. Ministry of Interior Regulation 3, 1980, on handling criminal cases went into effect on 15 December 1980. It deals with giving permission to arrest politicians, government officials and [ordinary] people. Police officials must have sufficient evidence and they must request prior permission from administrative officials. This provides certain guarantees to people who are to be arrested. But in 1981, the Police Department tried to get the Ministry of Interior to review this regulation, claiming that this regulation has made it difficult for the police to carry out their work. Then, on 26 January 1982, General Sithi Chirarot announced the implementation of Ministry of Interior Regulation No 4, 1981, on handling criminal cases. This replaced Regulation No 3, 1980. The power to arrest people without having to have the approval of the administrative officials was returned to the police. This generated criticisms among various circles of people such as lawyers, scholars, newspapermen, students and [other] people. They said that the rights and freedoms of the people would not be protected. There have been many times when the police have unjustly arrested suspects. Every year, there are reports of innocent people, suspects and prisoners being illegally seized, threatened, treated roughly and even murdered by police officials. The following are examples of the injustices that the people suffered at the hands of the police in 1981:

On 15 December 1980, police suppression officials from the Thungmahamek Metropolitan police station and other police officials arrested Mr Chatchawan Chanyaroengrob, Mr Chamnien Saengsuri and Mr Kasaem Manasuk on charges of harboring bandits. They were detained at the Thungmahamek police station and tortured to make them confess. Mr Chatchawan died from the torture and Mr Chamnien and Mr Kasaem were threatened to keep them from revealing this matter. Then on 19 January 1981, the matter was revealed by relatives of Mr Chatchawan.

On 4 February 1981, police from the Lopburi provincial police station in Chai Badan District, together with local administrative officials, who had influence, murdered Mr Han and Mrs Tun Prathumkham, Mr Somsiri Phatchaiphum, Mr Bun Daenthon, Mr Tun and Mr Toi Hatsadimun and Mr Bunchuai Sirisanguanthai, claiming that all seven of these people were bandits who had been waiting to hold up vehicles. These seven people were murdered on the Saraburi-Lomsak highway. The officials cremated their bodies immediately without giving doctors a chance to perform autopsies. And they did not permit relatives to come view the bodies. Villagers who witnessed this said that none of these seven people had any weapons on them when they were murdered and none of the seven had a criminal record.

On 7 March 1981, while investigation officers from the Thungmahamek police station were conducting inspections along the road, they saw three teenagers standing in a dark place. When they went to search the three teenagers, the three fled. The police gave chase and caught them and then shot two of them to death, claiming that the teenagers had shot first. However, the gun belonging to the teenagers showed no sign of having been fired.

On 15 March 1981, Mr Phieu Haicharoen, age 29, and four friends were arrested by 10 policemen in Nong Yaplong Subdistrict, Phetchaburi Province. They were not told the charges. They disappeared mysteriously and never returned home. Then on 16 March 1981, Mr Somsak Haicharoen, the elder brother [of Mr Phieu] went and made inquiries at the Yaphong police station. But the officials told him that [his brother] had not been arrested. Following that, more than 50 friends went and made an appeal at the Police Department.

On 26 May 1981, eight Suphanburi police officials arrested Mr Anucha Borisut, age 17, Mr Ocha Thipphawathin, age 16, and Mr Pramuan Witthisak, age 15, on charges of theft. The police threatened all three to get them to confess. Mr Ocha and Mr Pramuan confessed, but Mr Ocha [sic] refused. He was then tortured to make him confess. The next day, Mr Ocha was released but he died at the hospital. The doctor reported that Mr Ocha's brain and internal organs had been severely injured.

On 12 September 1981, Mr Amphon Sunthonwiphat, age 25, and Mr Chai Raephan were seized and shot by police from the Suphanburi provincial police station in Uthong District. Mr Amphon died but Mr Chai survived. The story was later exposed, and the policemen involved were charged with murder.

On 26 June 1981, police from the Bangna police station arrested Mr On Yuyen, a Sanyo employee, on charges of stealing a neighbor's motorcycle. Mr On was tortured so severely that he died.

Besides these, there are also other cases in which the police have engaged in illegal activities. Such things have stemmed from personal disputes and conflicts of interest, for example.

4. Reform Committee Order No 42 and the Publishing Law of 1941, which concern controlling and prohibiting the printing and dissemination of certain types of printed matter are still in effect. This publishing law gives press officials the power to withdraw the licenses of publishers, advertizers, editors and owners in cases in which the press officials feel that the stories and articles affect national security or the government. In 1981, these laws were used to close or warn many newspapers. For Example:

From 6 to 22 January 1981, the newspaper DAO SIAM was closed for 7 days for printing obscene photographs.

On 5 March 1981, Mr Phadet Phuripatiphan, the editor of the newspaper NAEON A, was charged with having revealed government secrets in the 4 March 1981 issue of NAEON A.

On 16 March 1981, the press officer issued a notice warning the editors of all newspapers that they should stop publishing stories to the effect that the government does not have sufficient treasury reserves left to pay the salaries of the government employees. It was felt that such stories would erode the stability of the government.

On 15 April 1981, the press officer called in the editors of all newspapers and asked them not to publish incorrect stories concerning the 1-3 April coup such as "The Double Coup" story.

On 22 May 1981, the press officer warned the daily newspapers CHAO THAI and NAEO NA and the weekly journal SU ANAKHOT about the publishing of the article "The Secret Memorandum of Manun Rubkhachon," which concerned the coup of 1-3 April 1981. But CHAO THAI refused to sign [the paper] acknowledging the warning.

On 3 August 1981, the newspaper DAO SIAM was ordered closed on charges of distorting the news in such a way that the peace and security of the nation would be affected.

On 16 November 1981, the press officer warned the editors of all newspapers to stop publishing alarming headline stories.

In principle, Reform Committee Publishing Law No 42 is an undemocratic law that violates the rights and freedoms of the press in thinking, speaking and writing. Thus, there have constantly been objections, and appeals have been made to revoke this law. During the past year, several MPs proposed that parliament consider revoking this law. But this was turned down.

As for newspapermen, there have been many cases of newspapermen being threatened, persecuted, tortured and assassinated for trying to reveal the illegal actions of government officials and influential people. For example:

On 13 February 1981, Mr Suphasak Chaisamut, a former local newspaperman was murdered in Krabi Province for once having attacked the illegal actions of government officials.

On 3 March 1981, Mr Wisit Satharot, the editor of the Phichit newspaper group and a reporter for THAI RAT, was shot and killed by three armed gunmen at the office of the daily newspaper SIANG CHAO BAN in Muang District, Phichit Province. The police stated that he was murdered because of a business dispute. But Mr Wisit had once published stories about corruption in the military budgets in Phichit Province and he had tried to expose those who were involved.

On 14 March 1981, a grenade was thrown into the house of Mr Somsak Watcharaphirom, a reporter for several central and local newspapers, in Muang District, Nakhon Sithammarat Province. However, he was not killed. This happened because he had written articles attacking the illegal timber trade and the illegal construction of commercial buildings.

On 17 April 1981, Mr Sakon Duangkaeo, a reporter for the DAILY NEWS in Saraburi Province, was shot because he had reported that an influential person had killed a villager in order to seize his land in Lopburi Province and that the owner of a shop that sold eyeglasses had been shot and killed by police officials.

On 9 June 1981, Mr Phisit Saroituram, a reporter for MATICHON in Nakhon Pathom Province, was threatened by a stranger because he had reported on a demonstration opposing the crime suppression activities of the officials.

On 10 June 1981, Mr Montri Phattharawat, a reporter for THAI RAT in Nakhon Sawan Province and the owner and editor of the local newspaper SERI NAKHON, was shot and killed by gunmen while he was driving home. He was murdered because he had reported information that he had dug up about the evil activities of a police official, stories that resulted in this policemen being investigated. It is believed that it was this policeman who committed the murder.

On 7 June 1981, Mr Manu Thawikhun, a reporter for DAO SIAM, and Mr Sakon Chaiyakham, an official of DAO SIAM, mysteriously disappeared. It is thought that both have been murdered. Both disappeared after having taken pictures of the Sia Ngoa Five Strengths gambling house, or automobile cooperative, which is a large gambling house. They have been missing since 17 [sic] June 1981.

On 26 June 1981, Mr Chak Atrasak Na Ayuthaya, a photographer for CHAO THAI, was threatened by soldiers of General Athit Kamlangk. They also grabbed him by the neck in order to rough him up.

5. During 1980, the labor unions, labor organizations and labor employee councils constantly demanded that the laws prohibiting laborers from striking in order to demand their rights be repealed. Finally, in January 1981, the government announced the repeal of the Ministry of Interior Notice of 8 October 1975 that prohibited strikes and lockouts. This resulted in the laborers receiving a basic right in demanding justice.

Since the beginning of 1981, many people have been laid off from work, especially during the last 6 months of the year. During the first 9 months of the year, more than 4,200 people were laid off and more than 1,200 were fired. As for why the workers were laid off, the employers said that the businesses were losing money. It is worth noting that of the workers who were laid off, many were members and committee members of the various labor unions that had taken part in demanding justice. For example:

The Bangna-Trat Sahamid Seat and Draf Motor Company, which produces motorcycle seats, locked out 63 workers who were members of a labor union after the workers took part in demanding [better] employment conditions.

The CH Autoparts Company in Samut Prakan laid off 132 workers who had taken part in demanding that employment conditions be improved.

The Biawat Rubber Industry Company in Bangkhunthien, Bangkok Municipality, a company that produces Jumpmaster shoes, laid off 12 workers who were labor union committee members.

The Charoensawat Synthetic Fiber Company in Nakhon Pathom fired 19 workers after they participated in demanding that employment conditions be improved.

During the first 9 months of 1981, the Department of Labor received 3,186 complaints from workers nationwide who were treated unfairly by their employers. The number of employees involved was 13,266. As for labor disputes and strikes during the first 9 months of 1981, there were 158 disputes involving 80,188 workers. There were 38 strikes involving 13,933 workers. In 1981, workers registered to establish 79 labor unions, 29 in Bangkok and 50 in the provinces.

From a labor survey conducted by the Department of Labor in 1981, it was learned that approximatley 80 percent or more of the work places are not operating in accord with the law. For example, they do not pay minimum wages in accord with the standards and the employment and work situation is not correct.

From the various statistics presented above, it can be seen that the situation facing the laborers became more and more tense, especially toward the end of 1981. Besides this, this tenseness can be seen from the fact that many labor leaders and laborers who played a role in demanding justice have been threatened, beaten up and even murdered.

On 10 April 1981, Mr Wichien Prangthong, age 42, the president of the labor union at the Kamonkit Rice Mill in Nonthaburi, was shot and killed by two hoodlums at his home in Nonthaburi. The reason was that Mr Wichien had led workers in making demands and a suit was in court at the time of his murder.

On 1 October 1981, when two carloads of workers from the Honey Factory, one group of whom had been laid off, were returning home after a meeting to demand [higher] cost of living and welfare benefits, talks that had been going on since 14 September 1981 but that had collapsed, hoodlums in cars pulled up alongside the cars of the workers and used pieces of wood to break the windshields of the workers' cars. Two people were injured.

On 2 October 1981, two carloads of teenagers attacked and roughed up workers from the Charoensawat Synthetic Fiber Company in Nakhon Pathom during a gathering in front of the factory. The news report stated that while this took place, police officials stood by indifferently as if nothing was happening.

On 15 October 1981, Mr Samrong Naphachot, the president of the United Farm Company labor union, Mr Son Kitchawat, a member of the labor union, and Mr Somsak Bunsomphong, the secretary-general of the labor union were shot by hoodlums. Mr Samrong and Mr Son died; Mr Somsak was seriously wounded. These were three of the four people who had been fired because they were important people in the formation of the union and they had demanded that work conditions be improved. The three were shot while waiting for a bus after a meeting.

On 22 October 1981, 70 policemen went and arrested 54 workers of the Thai Oriental Steel Company on charges of gathering together, making threats and forcing others to obey their demands. This took place while the workers were gahtered together in front of the plant.

As for the child labor situation, the situation has not changed much from previous years. It is certain that many medium and small-scale industrial plants are illegally employing many child laborers. Last year, the newspapers reported many stories concerning the seizure of hellish factories that used child laborers like slaves.

In summary, the human rights situation on various fronts in Thailand during 1981 changed very little from that in 1980. Even though the government has given the people greater freedom in thinking, writing and speaking, some restrictions have been preserved. The rights and freedoms of the people are still being trampled on by the state powers. The lives and property of the people have not been protected. The general situation of the people remains the same. More than 500,000 farm families still have no land to work. More than 50,000 Thai children under 5 years of age are still dying from starvation each year. Slum dwellers are still regularly being driven out of the places where they live. Few laborers receive the minimum wages that they should. This was the human rights situation in Thailand in 1981.

11943  
CSO; 4207/79

LABOR RELATIONS, UNEMPLOYMENT DISCUSSED IN ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMY

Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPPADA WICHAN in Thai 28 Mar 82 pp 18-22

[Article by Chira Hengladarom, the Director of the Human Resources Institute:  
"Price Situation and Labor Problems In 1981-1982"]

[Text] Inflation Is Declining

In 1981, inflation began to decline, declining from 20 percent in 1980 to 13 percent. In particular, inflation declined greatly during the last 6 months of the year, even though there were several things that indicated that the inflation rate would increase, such things including the effects of the devaluation of the baht, the increase in the minimum wage and the increase in the price of benzene. In the following section, we will discuss inflation in 1981 and the economic factors that caused inflation to decline and make estimates about inflation in 1982.

Inflation During the First 6 Months of 1981

Several economists forecast that in 1981 inflation would decline from the 1980 level of 20 percent. But during the first 3 months of 1981, inflation rose quickly and if the rate had kept increasing like that, inflation would have increased to 30 percent by the end of 1981, an unprecedented level. In Figure 1, it can be seen that in February and March of 1981, the transportation index rose to 22 percent, which resulted from the 20 percent increase in the price of oil, the increase in bus fares in Bangkok and the 20 percent rise in upcountry bus fares. Besides this, the rise in the Consumer Price Index during the first 6 months of the year resulted from the government's policy of reducing the financial support provided to the urban people by raising power rates -- these rates were increased twice, 16.6 percent in January and 20 percent in April -- and by raising water rates 15 percent in April. In May-June 1981, all items in the Consumer Price Index began to fall, with the exception of tobacco and Alcoholic beverages, which rose to 8 percent because of an increase in the tobacco tax in April. However, in short, during the first 3 months of 1981, the Consumer Price Index rose 7.3 percent and if the rate of increase had stayed like this, inflation would certainly have reached 30 percent by the end of 1981.

## The Factors That Caused Inflation to Decline In the Last 6 Months of 1981

It is difficult to say which factor was responsible for inflation during the last 6 months of 1981 declining more than was expected at the beginning of the year since each factor helped. But we want to mention the following points:

First, Thailand is in a situation that is known as an economic recession. Production is starting to drop in many sectors. For example, construction increased at a slow rate (6 percent). Few businesses are using their full production capacity. This has caused profits to fall and the purchasing power of the consumers has dropped too.

Second, domestic interest rates during the first 6 months of the year remained high. This made it impossible for businesses to maintain their stocks in order to speculate for profits. Various types of goods were put on the market and this increased the amount of goods. There were price wars in order to keep profits constant. In particular, this resulted in rather stable prices for consumer necessities.

Third, there was an economic recession throughout the world and inflation in the Western World was not very severe. In 1981, inflation in the United States was about 10-11 percent and it is expected that this will decline to 8-9 percent in 1982. Since Thailand has foreign trade relations, the decline in inflation in the West caused domestic inflation, that is, the price of imports, to decline.

Fourth, agricultural production exceeded demand, especially world market demand. This forced the price of agricultural goods to decline.

Fifth, the government tried to reduce government expenditures by implementing a financial policy. This reduced inflation. We call this "financial restraint."

Sixth, the Bank of Thailand did not increase the domestic money supply (M1) as much as it did in 1980. The existing data shows that this year's rate of increase is approximately 2.9 percent as compared with 13.8 percent in 1980.

Seventh, during the first 6 months of 1981, the government increased power rates, bus fares and water rates. Thus, in the last 6 months of the year, there was little increase, except for premium gasoline, which increased from 11.95 to 13.45 baht [per liter], and the increase in the excise tax on cigarettes. However, these price increases had little effect on the Consumer Price Index.

It is worth noting that, concerning the various reasons mentioned above, with the exception of the financial policy and the money supply, the state does not have any policy aimed at reducing inflation. Many of the factors are things that cannot be controlled. Thus, the economic situation is not very encouraging.

In 1982, the price of petroleum products will be adjusted in order to narrow the gap between the cost of premium gasoline and the price of [other] petroleum products. The effect of the devaluation of the baht will not yet be manifested

clearly. And it is expected that the world economy will recover from its dismal and very worrisome state. Domestic interest rates will decline if the banks' prime interest rate stays as it is. The paddy support price during the 1981/1982 production season will increase 250 [baht] per ton. These factors will cause inflation to rise in 1982. That is, it will be around 10-11 percent. Because of some of the factors discussed above, the government should quickly take advantage of the short-term benefits by spreading the income and adjusting the income of the people. At the same time, the economy must be allowed to operate freely.

#### Wage and Income Policies In 1981: The Minimum Wage

In October 1981, the government announced that the minimum wage would be raised. Table 1 shows that in Bangkok and the surrounding area the minimum wage rose from 54 baht per day to 61 baht per day, an increase of 13 percent. In the central and southern regions, the minimum wage rose from 47 baht per day to 52 baht per day, an increase of 10.6 percent. In the north and northeast, the minimum wage increased from 44 baht per day to 52 baht per day, an increase of 14.2 percent. Concerning this stipulation of minimum wages based on region, there were great changes. In the seven provinces of Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Saraburi, Chonburi, Ranong, Phangnga and Phuket, prior to 1 October 1981, the minimum wage had been less than that in Bangkok but in October 1981 it increased to 61 baht per day, just as in Bangkok. The owners of factories and other businesses did not agree with this increase in the minimum wage since it meant that their expenditures increased up to 30 percent. In Nakhon Ratchasima Province, the owner of a gunny bay factory laid off 200 workers because of the effect of this increase in the minimum wage. Even though the equality in the minimum wage in the various regions has tended to reduce the migration of workers, this has caused investors, who want to invest outside the Bangkok area since they gain because of the fact that wages upcountry are lower than in Bangkok, to cease making investments. This is an important crisis because it makes it difficult to carry out the government's policy of promoting and dispersing industry to the provincial areas since the basic conveniences are lacking and no benefits are gained from the capital in this matter of labor.

Setting the minimum wage at an improper level at a time when the country's economy is in such a dismal state has given rise to various doubts about the government's policies, especially concerning unemployment. This is because raising the minimum wage this time has led to higher unemployment. This point comes from a statement by the Department of Labor itself. It is hoped that before the next minimum wage rate is announced in October 1982, there will be detailed studies and standards. The most important point is that it must always be remembered that Thailand is competing with other developing countries in order to put the country in a position in which it can compete with world markets. Among the Asean countries, actual labor wages have declined in the Philippines while they have remained stable or increased slightly in Thailand. This will make [people] see the unsuitability of the labor market. Because while the world economy is in such a recession, labor costs have increased. This will lead to production switching over to the use of machines since production costs are lower.

## Labor Unions and the Minimum Wage

Thailand's industrial sector can be divided into two parts. The first is the official part composed of large-scale businesses, or those that are under the supervision of the Department of Labor. The labor unions usually play an important role here and most of these businesses pay wages in accord with the minimum wage as stipulated by law (see Table 2). The second part is composed of small-scale businesses such as cottage industries. The labor unions do not play any role in these businesses. Because the members of the labor unions have helped to have the minimum wage policies used in an efficient way, the laborers who work in large-scale businesses or in businesses that are under the supervision of the Department of Labor have received this right. But workers who work in small businesses such as cottage industries do not receive the stipulated minimum wage. Thus, setting a minimum wage has not helped to improve the standard of living of those who work in small-scale industries. These people are in great need of help.

## Income Policies

Certainly, a policy that has helped contribute to the present high standard of living is the policy of adjusting incomes, wages and prices so that they can respond to each other. In the past, the government did not have an efficient income policy. The policies that it implemented were aimed at solving only the immediate problems. In 1981, the government's income policy can be summarized as follows:

The decline in inflation has resulted in the incomes of those who have regular incomes climbing faster than prices. This is also the first time that the government has decided to raise the salaries of government employees and state enterprise employees at the same time, which took effect on 1 January 1982. This increase in salaries was greater than the increase of the Consumer Price Index. Besides this, the government has increased retirement pensions by 20 percent. As for tax policies, which have a direct effect on income, the government's goal is to reduce income taxes for individuals by increasing deductions and the minimum income on which taxes must be paid. But these changes have not gone into effect. However, on 21 December 1981, the government cut the tax on dividends from 15 to 10 percent. And the government will probably continue to have a policy of guaranteeing agricultural crop prices. But the drop in the price of agricultural products on world markets has made it difficult to ensure prices efficiently.

However, things can be summarized by saying that the government's 1981 income policies must continue to be carried out. Long-term plans should be stipulated so that the policies can achieve results. But because of the present unstable political situation, it will be difficult for the policies to achieve results as planned in 1982. At the same time, the 17 percent increase in the salaries of government employees has led to the question of whether the bureaucracy should be reformed. And it is worth noting that this reform of the bureaucracy will start in 1982 because of political reasons. As for 1982, concerning the

incomes of people in the rural areas, especially farmers, it can be seen that the incomes of the farmers are much lower than those of the people in the cities. This is because the price of farm products has fallen while the incomes of government employees and state enterprise employees have increased and the minimum wage paid to laborers has been increased too. Thus, it can be said that in 1981-1982, the distribution of income will not be fair. This is because for most people in the cities, that is, the government employees and state enterprise employees, incomes have been increased while for the farmers in general, incomes have not increased as much as they should have.

#### Labor Problems

Concerning the section in which the minimum wage was discussed, this is an example of the government's unfairness in changing policies during an economic recession. The industrial, or labor, problem is a complex matter. The government tries to solve the problems only when a crisis arises; no plans are made in advance (an example being the recent strike by postal workers).

In 1981, the government still felt that the labor problem was a political matter. Thus, this year there is no basic policy for solving the labor problem. As the person in charge of maintaining order in Bangkok, General Athit Kamlangk has asked labor leaders to think carefully about the present situation. Mr Wichit Saengthong, the director-general of the Department of Labor, has had his term of office extended 1 year. The figures in Table 3 (data to october 1981) show that the number of disputes has been increasing and that the strikes in 1981, as compared with those in 1980, have lasted longer. This is because the government has made strikes legal. The longer duration of the strikes has resulted in the number of man-days lost in 1981 (first 9 months) reaching 164,136 days, which is an increase from 1980.

In 1981, the labor unions in the state enterprises continued to play an important labor role. Those who have studied labor relations in Thailand know that the state enterprise labor unions, which have both skilled and semiskilled laborers as members, are labor unions that have good organizational administration. In 1981, the provincial water works employees, the employees of the Telephone Organization and the postal employees violated the law prohibiting strikes. But the government did not give in to their demands. The important criticisms of the state enterprises concerned the disputes about the unequal salaries or welfare benefits. The interesting demands made by the state enterprise labor unions were their demand that the state enterprises be able to adjust salaries without having to have cabinet approval. But the government has not responded to this demand. This matter will continue to be discussed.

The labor court will continue to play an important role. The statistics in Table 4 show that in the period January-October 1981, 3,982 cases went to the labor court. This is an increase from the 2,682 cases in 1980. Even though data on disputes in 1981 have not yet been disseminated as they should have, Table 4 shows that most of the disputes that reached the labor court in 1980 concerned the payment of compensation. It is expected that in 1982 the labor court will handle an even greater number of cases stemming from the economic

recession. Various businesses will be affected by the recession, resulting in more workers being laid off, and the number of disputes concerning compensation will increase. Thus, it is necessary to evaluate the role and efficiency of the labor court. In general, it seems that the labor court cannot solve the important problems in matters concerning the Thai industrial sector. In 1981, there continued to be internal disputes between the workers, the administrators and the government and such disputes will continue to arise in 1982.

#### Unemployment

It is said that many people have not attached much importance to the problem of unemployment in Thailand since our unemployment rate is still low as compared with many other developing countries. Thus, greater attention has been focused on the problems of low wage rates and underemployment. Until recently, unemployment was not a pressing problem for the government because our agricultural sector was quite capable of absorbing the additional laborers. Also, in the cities there were service and production activities that could absorb laborers. The government has viewed the unemployment problem as a long-term problem. But changes in this began to take place in 1981. The press took such an interest in the unemployment problem that it became a new political problem. And recently, the Department of Labor announced that in 1982 unemployment would increase by another 700,000 people, 170,000 of whom are skilled and educated workers.

The two important pressures that affect the unemployment situation can be summarized as follows:

1. The fall of world market prices for agricultural products, of which Thailand is a major exporter, will directly affect the agricultural sector's ability to absorb laborers. This is because how much the farmers produce depends on the prices they receive at present. During the 1981/1982 agricultural season, agricultural production will fall, and the migration of laborers from the rural areas to the cities will increase in 1982. Even if the government carries on the commune investment program resolutely, this will have little effect as compared with the severity of the problem. Also, this program can ease the unemployment situation only during the dry season.
2. Thailand's industrial sector is in a semi-recession. Many factories such as glass and textile factories, which are found throughout Thailand, have shut down. The seriousness of the problem is that almost 700,000 people are entering the labor market each year even though the population growth rate declined from 3.3 percent in 1965 to 1.9 percent in 1981. The movement of laborers abroad will help solve the problem only partly. And at the same time, this will give rise to a new problem. Approximately 10 billion baht a year is sent back to Thailand. But this shows the basic error of our policy of promoting capital-intensive industries instead of labor-intensive industries. Stipulating minimum wage rates will further increase the number of unemployed in 1982. Even though the government has begun to try to solve the problem, it does not have a basic policy for the long term. As an example, the government's

remedy is to postpone the firing of 300,000 temporary government employees by 4 months. In 1982, the unemployment problem will get worse, and it will be difficult to solve the problem. It is essential that long-term plans be made, regardless of whether in the fields of education, agricultural and industrial policy, manpower planning or financial policy. In short, we should ask ourselves the question: With whom does the responsibility, the power and the duty lie?

Table 1: The Minimum Wage: 1973-1981 (baht/day)

Region	17 April 1973	1 January 1974	14 June 1974	1 October 1975	1 October 1977	1 October 1978
Bangkok and the surrounding area	12	16	20	25 (25)	28 (12)	35 (25)
Central and southern regions	-	-	-	18 *	21 (16.7)	28 (33.3)
Northern and northeastern regions	-	-	-	16	19	25
Average	-	-	-	19.7	22.7 (15.2)	29.3 (29.1)
	1 October 1979	1 October 1980	1 October 1981 1./			
	45 (28.6)	54 (20)	61 (13)			
	38 (35.7)	47 (23.7)	52 (10.6)			
	35 (40.0)	44 (25.7)	52 (14.2)			
	39.3 (34.1)	48.3 (22.9)	55.0 (13.9)			

Note: 1./ This rate includes not only Bangkok and the five neighboring provinces but seven other provinces that are industrial centers in various regions.

These seven provinces are Chiang Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Saraburi, Chonburi, Ranong, Phangnga and Phuket. The figures in parenthesis are the change in percent.

Source: Department of Labor, Ministry of Interior.

Table 2: Percentage Paying Wages According to the Minimum Wage Grouped by Size of Business (%)

<u>Size of Business</u>	1975	1976	1978
<b>Small-scale:</b>			
Less than 5 people	59.56	47.25	67.60
5-9 people	63.02	59.28	53.96
10-19 people	68.49	59.29	59.47
<b>Medium sized:</b>			
20-49 people	69.81	72.94	63.55
50-99 people	75.90	80.20	75.85
<b>Large scale:</b>			
100-299 people	84.66	86.29	83.84
More than 300 people	87.06	87.79	93.58
No data	40.91	80.00	-
Average	68.62	67.12	68.65

Source: Labor Statistics Section, Labor Studies and Planning Division, Department of Labor.

Table 3: Nationwide Labor Disputes and Strikes, 1979-1981

<u>Labor Disputes</u>	1979	1980	1981
Number of disputes	205	164	173
Number of employees involved	75,468	52,697	94,548
<b>Strikes</b>			
Number of strikes	64	22	48
Number of employees involved	16,203	4,290	15,535
Number of strike days	119.25	53.50	224
Number of man-days lost	33,837.75	9,092.75	164,136

Note: In 1981, statistics are for the period January-October

Source: Labor Statistics Section, Labor Studies and Planning Division, Department of Labor.

Table 4: Number of Cases That Were Taken to the Labor Court in 1980

Total number of cases	2,682
Number of employees demanding compensation	1,668
Number of employees demanding other types of compensation such as overtime pay, support funds, retirement allowance and reimbursement pay	600
Number demanding that they be rehired	130
Number of employees suing employer	3
Number of employers suing the Department of Labor	40
Number of employers suing the Labor Relations Board	47
Number of employers requesting to use their court rights	41

Source: Workmen's Compensation Fund Office, Department of Labor, Ministry of Interior.

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CSO: 4207/79

EDITORIAL EXCUSES EXPLOITATION OF CHILD LABOR IN FACTORIES

BK010443 Bangkok POST in English 1 Jul 82 p 4

[Editorial: "The Root Cause of Child Labour"]

[Text] The exchange of communications between the labour department and certain members of the western press brings to the fore the need for a clearer understanding of Thailand's child labour problem.

The point is, child labour and child exploitation are two different things; and the danger is to rush a judgment that mistakes one for the other. Just as it would be irresponsible to deny that child exploitation exists in the country so would it be completely false to even insinuate that all forms of work performed by children rank as exploitation.

In most any society, there is always the tendency to exploit its more vulnerable members, and children--by the very fact of their physique--are more exposed to exploitation. But what constitutes exploitation?

The low wages generally paid to child labourers working in foodshops and small family enterprises do not necessarily rise from the raw avarice of employers, nor do they tot up superprofits for their small-time business operations. For some of these employers, the only way they can keep their heads above water and provide for their employees is by keeping their labour costs low. In a case like this, which of two options is better? Close the business and sever much-needed employment, or carry on?

Separation from parents and other members of the immediate family is generally distressing for children. But it is a debatable question whether children from absolutely poor families suffer less (or more) mental and emotional anguish by being helpless witnesses to their parents' frustration and seemingly perpetual state of poverty.

It is not always easy to draw a distinct line between what are tolerable terms of employment for children, and working conditions that verge on exploitation. However, some cases cannot be considered anything else but exploitation. These include jobs that expose children to physical and mental injury due to excessively long working hours, while also burdening them with tasks unsuited to their physique. The worst form of exploitation--child prostitution--is especially damaging, both psychologically and physically.

Child labour is not unique to Thailand, nor is it a problem exclusive to this century. And to make sweeping pronouncements with preconditioned biases hardly serves the purpose of solving the problem at its source. At its root is poverty. And whatever form of cruelty and exploitation child labour may have given rise to is the byproduct of attempts to break out of poverty--among the parents, the employers and the children themselves.

To pay exaggerated attention to overt signs of child exploitation is, in a way, to digress from the bigger and more basic problem of hardship caused by poverty, which is at the root of so many troubles in our society today.

CSO: 4220/206

THAILAND

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES RELEASE OF SRI LANKAN HIJACKER

BK020414 Bangkok POST in English 2 Jul 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Has Justice Been Done?"]

[Text] Congratulations are due to officials involved in preventing tragedy in the Alitalia hijacking. A dangerous situation which potentially could have cost scores and even hundreds of deaths was averted by calm and professionalism. In particular, praise must go to the special committee appointed so quickly by the prime minister, headed by chief-of-staff of the Royal Thai Air Force, Adm Arun Phromthep. Communications Minister Adm Amon Sirikaya, the committee's chief negotiator, was instrumental in averting possible tragedy.

Italian Ambassador Francesco Ripandelli and Sri Lankan Ambassador Mrs Irangani Manel Abeysekera did their own countries proud by their composed handling of the problem. And there is no question that the aircraft commander, Giovanni Amoroso, also has special praise coming for protecting his passengers so well.

The lone hijacker, identified as Sepala Ekanayaka, apparently staged his dangerous act of piracy to try to gain custody of his child. But sympathy for his cause should not be confused with sympathy for the means he used. He had so little respect for the other 260 innocent men, women and children aboard his flight that he threatened to kill them all.

In 1978, Thailand enacted a law to deal with such people, called officially the anti-air piracy law. It provides for penalties up to and including the death sentence for airplane hijackers. Thailand is also signatory to three international anti-hijack conventions aimed at stemming the worldwide problem of endangering airline passengers and crew.

The man who seized the Alitalia flight and threatened for 32 hours to blow it up at Don Muang Airport was promised amnesty as part of a deal to stop his dangerous actions. But promises made under duress are not binding. No honour was at stake and Ekanayaka should have been arrested as Thai law provides.

At his trial under this law, Ekanayaka would have been permitted to bring forth mitigating circumstances that could have affected the verdict. If

found guilty, these circumstances could be taken into account in passing sentence. The anti-air piracy law makes the death sentence a possibility, but only as a maximum. It would be a mitigating circumstance, for example, that he surrendered the hijack attempt voluntarily, without harming anyone, and without force being used.

The only alternative, now that he has left this country, is that Bangkok may have a certain allure for future hijackers. The decision not to prosecute weakens an almost universally held belief that hijacking can only be stopped by making it unattractive to both the madmen and the professional terrorists who would turn a method of transport into an inferno of death.

CSO: 4220/206

EDITORIAL HAILS PIRACY ACCORD

BK260230 Bangkok POST in English 26 Jun 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Piracy Accord Good News For All"]

[Text] It was indeed good news to hear the other day that the various parties involved have finally come to an agreement on combatting piracy in the Gulf of Thailand. The wrangle among Thai, foreign and United Nations authorities on this important problem had gone on much too long, and had caused tempers on both sides to fray.

There were important misconceptions in all the bargaining, not the least of which was that piracy is a new problem sparked by Vietnamese boat people. As we have been at pains to point out for several years, pirates have thrived for a century or more in the area. Their chief victims have always been fishermen, primarily Thai fishermen. The horrendous attacks upon the Vietnamese refugees is a recent and deplorable phenomenon.

The United Nations, and to a lesser extent donor countries such as the United States, have chosen to consider the piracy problem only in relation to the refugees. If they had, as they wished, retained control of the anti-piracy programme, it would have been ineffective. Pirates exist as seaborne criminals against Gulf of Thailand commerce. When there are no more boat people, the pirates will still be among us.

The answer to piracy is an across-the-board attack on their activities, as is any campaign against any criminal elements. Pirates must be stopped from attacking Thai fishermen, tourists and boat people, not just the refugees. This is the reason, and it is a valid reason, why our authorities have insisted on maintaining control of any antipiracy campaign no matter where the financing originates.

The concerned Thai authorities have been right in withholding support for the crackdown on pirates until they got their point across. It will be a much better programme now that foreign officials realise that we are just as concerned about pirates as they are, perhaps more so. Thailand would like to end the piracy problem once and for all. It is important to stop attacks on hapless refugees from Vietnam. It is equally important to stop pirate attacks on defenceless fishermen, tourists and boat passengers from all other countries in the region.

Pirates are lawbreakers, no matter whom they attack. The new cooperation extended by the United Nations and others, we sincerely hope, will help wipe out the pirates and make the Gulf of Thailand a safe place for all.

CSO: 4220/207

THAILAND

TALKS ON TIN ASSOCIATION BEGIN IN BANGKOK

BK281234 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 28 Jun 82

[Text] Today, senior Thai Government officials are scheduled to meet their colleagues from Malaysia and Indonesia to prepare issues related to the formation of a Tin Producers' Association for their ministers who will begin discussions tomorrow.

Despite discussions on research and development of their respective tin mining industries as mentioned in the joint announcement to form an association last week by Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, which account for more than 70 percent of world's tin production, the officials and ministers will also discuss means to control smuggling of tin from the three countries to Singapore which is also an ASEAN member country. The ministers who are scheduled to meet tomorrow include Industry Minister of Thailand Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, Malaysian Minister of Primary Industries Datuk Paul Leong Khee Seong and Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy Dr Subroto.

The ministers from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia will discuss the framework of the association which is designed to further contribute towards the better operation of the sixth international tin agreement. The association will serve the purpose of producers in much the same way as the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries.

Tin producers and consumers last week adopted the sixth international tin agreement to stabilize the metal's price on world markets. The agreement will be effective on 1 July.

CSO: 4220/207

THAILAND

EDITORIAL SUPPORTS FORMATION OF TIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

BK300549 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 30 Jun 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Tin Association Is Absolutely a Necessity"]

[Text] The industrial countries of the world have long pontificated about the help they are giving to Third World countries in terms of financial aid and soft loans. On the other hand, the Third World countries have been saying that they want more trade than aid. The two attitudes are actually not in conflict but they do frequently run counter to each other. In all this, as producers of raw materials, what the Third World most needs is stability in commodity prices. The price of tin which has much been in the news is extremely important from this point of view.

The major producers of tin--ASEAN's Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia--have been extremely hard hit by the decline in the price of tin which reached a record low of U.S.\$9,640 per ton last week registering the lowest price during the past 5 years. If nothing else, the three ASEAN tin producing countries had actually no recourse but to enter into a tin producers association in order to protect the price of this metal.

The formation of the association is a legitimate move by the three countries to preserve their interests in the international market in the face of falling prices--the price decrease being artificially induced by irresponsible release of large quantities from stockpiles. The tin price has been largely under the control of the London Metals Exchange which has little interest in the welfare of the producers.

Tin price decreased to almost half of what prevailed in 1980, thereby seriously threatening the economies of the three ASEAN producers since their own income from tin exports is quite large. It is only partly true that recession and technology have lowered the demand for tin since the release of tin from the American stockpile contributed much to the plummeting price of tin. The U.S. General Service Administration (GSA) was authorized by Congress to dispose of 30,000 tons of tin between 1 July 1980, and 30 June 1983. Until last week, 9,410 tons have been released mostly in the international market.

At first the United States gave the impression that the GSA stock would be released for domestic consumption only. However, in December 1981 the GSA started selling in the international market. The ASEAN producers charged that the move was "pure dumping."

Apparently the American intention was to prevent the emergence of an OPEC-like cartel of tin producers. But the three concerned ministers who met and formed the Tin Producers Association in Bangkok yesterday state that it was formed only to protect their interests and not aimed at pushing up the price of tin. It is indeed welcome news that Bolivia, the world's fourth largest producer of tin, has indicated that it will join the association.

Another point that has to be taken into consideration is that the United States has offered to hold high-level official consultations with the ASEAN producers, and that offer was reiterated yesterday here in Bangkok by U.S. Assistant Secretary for East Asia John Holdridge. But ASEAN producers have not reacted favourably to this proposal. The producers contend that the United States has so far shown no gesture towards relaxing its uncompromising attitude--the United States refused to join the sixth international agreement and has not stopped dumping tin.

It is time that the United States shows some positive and concrete indications of any good intention on her part. It is necessary that the newly-formed association should work with the United States which has been a consistent friend of ASEAN.

After all, the United States is the world's largest tin consumer and further holds a stockpile of about 200,000 tons. The United States must understand that she must not let this quarrel drift since she will be losing politically because the three ASEAN producers are only seeking fair prices to protect their economies. The argument that the United States seeks to dump tin in order to buy copper does not hold water--the United States could have easily come up with the money to buy copper without hurting the economies of her friends.

CSO: 4220/206

THAILAND

BRIEFS

MALAYSIA LIFTS BAN--Malaysia has lifted an import ban on cattle from Thailand following the eradication of foot and mouth disease in the southern provinces of the country. Director General of the Livestock Department Dr Thim Phansiri says that the disease has now been eradicated through the cooperation of the two countries. He says that Thailand and Malaysia have jointly carried out large-scale vaccination of livestock within a 50 km area inside their common border since 1980. Dr Thim says that the two countries have agreed to check and vaccinate the livestock every 6 months in an attempt to prevent new outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. He adds that Malaysia will import Thai cattle at about 200-300 heads per month to meet its local demand. [Text] [BK020555 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 2 Jul 82]

ASEAN AGREEMENT ON SODA ASH PROJECT--Five member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN have agreed to carry out a joint rock salt-soda ash project in Thailand. The agreement for this project was signed over the weekend in Bangkok in a ceremony presided over by Industry Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan. The contract was [word indistinct] signed by representatives from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. About \$277 million will be spent on the project under which the ASEAN Soda Ash Project Company Limited will be established. [Text] [BK270456 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 27 Jun 82]

OFFICIALS MEET ON TIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION--About 20 officials from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia attended a ministers meeting in Bangkok yesterday to finalize details of the new Tin Producers Association. Malaysian Minister for Primary Industries Dr Paul Leong said that the association is not a cartel and it will play a complimentary and supplementary role to the 6th international tin agreement that goes into effect tomorrow. He also said that the association is aimed to raise tin consumption for the benefits of both producers and consumers. Meanwhile, Thai Industry Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan said other tin producers will be invited to join the association so that it will truly be beneficial to as many countries outside ASEAN as possible. Bolivia, the fourth major producer, has already announced its intention to join the association. [Text] [BK300632 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 30 Jun 82]

KAMPUCHEAN REFUGEES RETURN HOME--About 8,000 Kampuchean who fled across the border into eastern border province of Trat since March when their stronghold was attacked by Vietnamese-backed forces have returned home, the

supreme command said yesterday. It said the Kampuchean were able to return because the Vietnamese forces in the area had withdrawn deeper inside Kampuchea. [Text] [BK300439 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 30 Jun 82 p 3]

WORLD BANK LOAN--The World Bank yesterday announced the approval of a U.S.\$90 million loan, about 2,070 million baht, to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand [PTT] for the construction of its natural gas separation plant. The loan to PTT is guaranteed by the Thai Government. The loan is for a period of 20 years at an interest rate of 11.6 percent per annum. A grace period of 5 years is provided for before amortization of the loan, the bank said, and added that the loan also carries a frontend fee of 1.5 percent and an annual commitment charge of 0.75 percent on the undisbursed balance. [Excerpt] [BK251411 Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 23 Jun 82 p 24]

TRADE DEFICITS TO IMPROVE--The Bank of Thailand has revealed that Thailand is expected to suffer a trade deficit of \$2.08 billion this year representing a decrease of nearly 45 percent from the deficit during the preceding year. Exports of merchandise for 1982 will be about \$7.4 billion while imports of the products will be around \$9.5 billion. However, due to an expected decrease in capital inflow, the country's international reserves would decline. It is expected that at the end of this year the country's official reserves would stand at \$2.5 billion as against \$2.75 billion recorded at the end of last year. [BK020429 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1000 GMT 29 Jun 82]

CANADIAN ASSISTANCE--Canada has agreed to buy more Thai products to help reduce Thailand's growing trade deficit with Canada. The agreement was reached at a meeting between Canadian Foreign Minister Mark Macguigan and Foreign Minister of Thailand Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila during his 2-day official visit to Thailand recently. Canada has also agreed to provide financial aids and technical assistance for several development projects in Thailand. [BK251213 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1100 GMT 22 Jun 82]

NATURAL GAS EXPORT PLAN--The Committee for the Development of Natural Gas for Export has approved a plan to export natural gas in an attempt to earn more foreign exchange. The decision was made during its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon early this week. The project will soon be submitted to the cabinet for final approval. During the meeting the committee also proposed that a special organization be set up to be responsible for the development of natural gas for export. Industry Minister Maj Gen Chatchai Chunhawan says that the gas development project, if approved by the cabinet, will be completed within 5 years. He adds that about 50 billion baht will be spent on the project. [Text] [BK020605 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 2 Jul 82]

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